SOC 150: Exam #1(Spring ‘08)

1.(m/c) Sociologists’ s study of social problems is a value-free pursuit.

2.(t/f) According to the text, C. Wright Mills would argue that the problems individual homeowners face now are personal problems.

3.(t/f) According to the text, a person-blame approach to social problems is the best way to bring about social change.

4.(m/c) Fundamentalist Christians believe which of the following would be solutions to American society’s problems?

a. Teaching abstinence only sex education. b. Teaching intelligent design in science classes.

c. A Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. d. all of the above

5.(m/c) According to the text, people living in social welfare countries have which of the following advantages over people living in the United States?

a. They have a longer life expectancy. b. The infant and maternal mortality rates are lower.

c. They have a larger middle class. d. all of above e. none of above

6.(m/c) Corporations believe which of the following would solve their “social problems”?

a. deregulation b. tort reform c. privatization d. a and b e. all of above

7.(m/c) According to the text, all of the following are true when comparing the U.S. to other industrialized nations EXCEPT:

a. The U.S. has the highest rate of poverty. b. The U.S. provides the least amount of income to the poor.

c. The U.S. is the only industrial nation without universal health care.

d. The U.S. provides the least in all forms of aid to poor children. e. none are exceptions

8.(t/f) Television news emphasized the disease SARS because during the SARS epidemic it killed more people any other disease.

9.(m/c) According to the Annenberg study, the more people watched television news the more they knew about Gulf War I.

10.(m/c) All of the following are vital needs EXCEPT:

a. decent wages b. reasonable hours c. job security d. retirement benefits e. none are exceptions

11.(m/c) Children are more likely to be victims of violence:

a. at home b. at school c. while playing d. in the car e. by a stranger

12.(t/f) According to your professor, all the vital needs of millions of middle class and working class Americans and their children are in decline or being threatened. For example, a continually increasing number of Americans are without health insurance.

13.(t/f) From the conflict point of view, the main social problem in American society is the extreme and growing inequality in wealth and income.

14.(t/f) Inequality in wealth and income is increasing in American society, and is greater than any time since the

Great Depression.

15.(t/f) The U.S. has less inequality in wealth and less poverty than any other industrial nation.

16.(t/f) The top 1% has significantly increased both their wealth and their share of yearly income since the mid 1970s.

17.(t/f) Social Darwinists would oppose social reforms like social welfare because they allow people to get money for doing nothing.

18.(t/f) According to the text, the American economy is the best example of a pure capitalist economy.

19. (m/c) All of the following are means used by corporations to increase their concentration of ownership and consequently their control over the economic system EXCEPT:

a. mergers and acquisitions b. shared monopolies c. interlocking directorates

d. a and b e. none are exceptions

20.(m/c) Mega-mergers have had all of the following consequences EXCEPT:

a. increased concentration of ownership b. eliminated jobs c. increased corporate debt

d. increased the power of labor unions e. none are exceptions

21(t/f) There is a direct connection between the rise of multi-national corporations and the reduction of semi-killed and unskilled jobs in the U.S.

22.(t/f) In the U.S., the sole legal obligation of a public corporation is the maximization of profit for its shareholders

23.(t/f) An example of how shared monopolies and concentrated ownership can allow traders to “arbitrage” the marketplace was revealed in a Daily Show about the California energy crisis and how \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took advantage of to raise the price of electricity on “Aunt Millie.”

a. SDG&E b. Sempra c. Enron d. Bechtel e. Halliburton

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Match the democratic institution or process to the ways by which it is undermined.

Institution/Process Ways

24. electoral process a. corporate owned, advertising sponsored

25. legislative process b. “revolving door”

26. judicial system c. lobbying

27. regulatory system d. appointments, campaign financing

28. free press e. campaign financing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

29. (t/f) By reducing taxes, the 2001 tax relief package eliminated government waste, gave the poor more money to spend and invest, and improved the economy.

30.(m/c) The main lobbyist in *Bulworth* is from which of the following industries?

a. mass media b. insurance c. oil d. banking

31.(m/c) According to the text, when Adam Smith argued that an “invisible hand” regulates the economy, he was referring to a. entrepreneurial wisdom b. maximizing personal gain c. overall material progress of society d. competition

32.(t/f) Reducing or eliminating the estate tax and taxes on investment income will directly benefit the majority of Americans.

33.(t/f) Since 1976, the presidential candidate who won the “wealth primary,” raised the most money before the primaries, became the party nominee.

34.(t/f) Incumbents get most of the campaign contributions and they win over 90% of the time.

35.(m/c) According to the text, Karl Marx argued that capitalism would do all of the following EXCEPT:

a. lead to monopolies in all sectors of society. b. self-destruct.

c. lead to both overproduction and underproduction. d. lead to rule by the wealthy.

e. none are exceptions

36.(m/c) According to the text, all of the following are principles of capitalism EXCEPT:

a. private property b. pursuit of profit c. equality d. competition

37.(m/c) All of the following are examples of what corporations want EXCEPT:

a. tax breaks b. ownership of public resources

c. publicly funded research and development d. bailouts e. none are exceptions

38.(m/c) Which of the following are ways that the merging of politics and television has undermined our democratic process?

a. Increased dependence on political advertising on television.

b. Televised phony town hall meetings.

c. Increased expense of running for political office.

d. a and b e. all of the above

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Match the following industry to the specific “wealthfare” it has received, or desires to receive.

Industry Wealthfare

39. Fast Foods a. Clear Skies

40. Mass Media b. Work Opportunity Tax Credit

41. Financial Industry c. Telecommunications Act of 1996

42. Extractive (coal mining) d. Social Security Privatization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

43.(t/f) The trend in all areas of media is for greater concentration of ownership.

44.(t/f) After WWII 80% of newspapers were privately owned, now 80% of newspapers are owned by corporations. And example is the LA Times which is owned by the Chicago Tribune.

45.(m/c) All of the following are examples of media concentration EXCEPT:

a. shared monopoly b. shared ownership c. interlocking directorates d. none are exceptions

46.(m/c) According to your professor, all of the following are the real functions of corporate-owned, advertising-sponsored news EXCEPT:

a. make a profit b. entertainment c. propaganda d. inform the public e. none are exceptions

47.(m/c) All of the following should be functions of the press in a democracy EXCEPT:

a. inform b. seek the truth c. advocate for the people

d. operate in the public interest e. none are exceptions

48.(t/f) One of the cost reduction measures in which corporations have engaged is eliminating investigative reports.

49. (m/c) Cost cutting measures have made corporate news dependent upon:

a. press conferences b. government experts c. VNRs and GNRs d. a and b e. all of above

50.(m/c) All of the following dominate the content of news stories EXCEPT:

a. violence b. natural disasters c. personalities d. workers’ vital needs e. none are exceptions

51.(m/c)All of the following are examples of news as entertainment from the Daily Show EXCEPT?

a. Reporter getting tased with 50,000 volts b. Reporters demonstrating how windy a hurricane is

c. Reporter canoeing in “flood” water d. none of are exceptions

52.(m/c) According to the text, government assistance to the poor is provided when:

a. policy analysis demonstrates the severe plight of the poor. b. the poverty rate reaches 17%.

c. there is a threat of political disorder. d. all of the above e. none of the above

53.(m/c) The Saving Private Lynch story was:

a. based on a single anonymous Pentagon official. b. reported in one newspaper and then picked up by others.

c. an example of how the media can be used by the government. d. a propaganda story.

e. all of the above

54.(t/f) Because America has a liberal media, many more Democrats than Republicans are presented as sources

for news shows.

55.(m/c) According to the Daily Show, which of the following are guidelines for setting up a “fake” town hall meeting?

a. an alliterative three word title b. interracial and gender sensitive background

c. “soft ball” questions d. all of above

56.(m/c) In a democracy, the citizens are responsible when the country goes to war, so it is important that the press:

a. informs the public. b. pursues the truth. c. supports the government no matter what. d. a and b e. all of above

57.(m/c) All of the following are ways that the corporate-owned press violated its responsibilities during the war in Iraq EXCEPT:

a. Accepted forged documents and unreliable sources. b. Never informed Americans about the cost of going to war.

c. Embedded reporters with the military who signed agreements not to report on certain things.

d. Accepted without challenge statements made at the “Hollywood” briefing center in Centcom.

e. None are exceptions

58.(m/c) If the media were fulfilling its function as an advocate for the people and an adversary of the government, it would be pursuing all of the following stories EXCEPT:

a. the true human cost of the war. b. who was responsible for the torture in Abu Gharib.

c. why we are staying in Iraq “forever.” d. whether bombing countries is the best way to fight the so-called “war on terror.” e. none are exceptions

59.(t/f) Pre-War coverage by the corporate media, even the liberal NY Times, adopted the Bush Administration position on Iraq.

60.(t/f) The toppling of the statue of Saddam Hussein was an example of how the U.S. was greeted as liberators.

61.(m/c) All of the following are examples of the war as entertainment (militainment) EXCEPT:

a. Centcom briefings b. music and video introducing news shows c. saving private Lynch

d. human interest stories e. none are exceptions

62.(t/f) Journalists were embedded with military units so that Americans would be able to know about the war, including its human, social, and environmental costs.

63.(m/c) All of the following stories were not good for war as entertainment EXCEPT:

a. white phosphorus b. depleted uranium c. mercenaries d. Fallujah e. none are exceptions

64.(t/f) All of the goals of the “Surge” have been achieved.

65.(t/f) The second largest military force in Iraq is mercenaries, private soldiers fighting for money.

59.(t/f) Due to income gains by black families, the income gap between black and white families is narrowing.

60.(m/c) The most destitute minority group in the U.S. is:

a. Asian Americans b. African Americans c. Native Americans d. Latino Americans

61.(m/c) The lower educational attainment of minorities is due to:

a. biological differences b. a culture of poverty c. unequal access to high-quality education

62.(t/f) African Americans and Latino Americans with graduate and professional degrees are able to narrow the income gap with white Americans who have equivalent degrees.

63.(t/f) Compared to other industrialized nations, women in the U.S. make a higher percent of men’s wages.

64.(t/f) The “glass ceiling” refers to the invisible barrier that prevents women workers from advancing into upper management positions.

65.(t/f) One of the factors that contributes to the gender wage gap is that women workers are concentrated in lower paying occupations.

70.(t/f) The Academic Freedom Movement is a movement the goal of which is to make sure students are exposed to the widest

range of ideas.