Exam #1

1.(m/c) Social Constructionism argues all of the following EXCEPT:

a. social reality is created by human beings through interactions at the micro level.

b. social reality becomes institutionalized and objectified.

c. social reality becomes reified, people don’t recognize it as humanly constructed.

d. social reality exercises power over people, who believe “it is what it is.” e. none are exceptions

2.(m/c) According to Professor Semm which of the following are goals of the course?

a. to analyze how American society was constructed and in whose interests.

b. to separate myth from reality c. to discover the possibilities for social change

d. a and b e. all of above

3.(t/f) According to Professor Semm, in relation to social control the goal of the system of power is to construct people whose personalities will reproduce the system.

4.(m/c) The focus of the course is on all of the following EXCEPT:

a. analyzing and deconstructing the myth of American Exceptionalism.

b. analyzing and deconstructing the belief that the American economic system is free market capitalism.

c. analyzing and deconstructing the belief that the American political system is “of the people.”

d. trying to understand the past in order to understand the lack of collective resistance to organized wealth and power in the present. e. none are exceptions

5.(t/f) Social constructionism understands that there is a real world out there. If one jumps off a building and doesn’t have a parachute, one is going to go splat. However, social constructionism argues that primarily through culture, peoples of the world understand, experience and explain the world differently

6.(m/c) According to Professor Semm, American Exceptionalism is both an ideology and a mythology that serves all of the following functions EXCEPT:

a. provides a narrative for collective and individual identity.

b. functions to legitimate the status quo and therefore power arrangements in American society.

c. forces Americans to take moral responsibility for their country’s policies that harm others.

d. functions as an ideology of social control. e. none are exceptions

7.(m/c) All of the following are components of American Exceptionalism EXCEPT:

a. America is a unique country, qualitatively different from and superior to all other countries.

b. America is a country of finite possibilities, and to be successful means competing against others for limited resources and limited opportunities.

c. America is a benevolent country and only acts towards other peoples and countries for

moral reasons.

d. Achieving the America Dream is possible for anyone. e. none are exceptions

8.(m/c) According to American Exceptionalism which of the following are true?

a. America is an exception because it has a special relationship to God.

b. American is an exception because it embodies the highest values of humanity.

c. America is a country that is a symbol and a reality to other countries and people of what is possible.

d. a and c e. all above

9.(t/f) According to American Exceptionalism there is no class or caste structure to limit the upward mobility of Americans.

10.(t/f) According to American Exceptionalism, everything that America does, while sometimes misguided, is motivated by its relationship with God and is an attempt to do good.

11.(m/c) All of the following are parts of the mythological origin story of America EXCEPT

a. The Puritans’ belief that they were the “new chosen people.”

b. The Puritans’ belief that the “new world” was the new “promised land” of the Bible and God had given it to them.

c. The Puritans’ belief that they had established a new covenant with God and that it demanded that they turn the “new world” into a Garden of Eden.

d. the Puritans’ belief that they needed to create a Christian society that would be a City Upon a Hill to the rest of the world. e. none are exceptions

12.(t/f) The Puritan story was appropriated for ideological reasons during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and became the basis of American Exceptionalism by the end of the nineteenth century.

13.(m/c) The “other side” of American Exceptionalism involved all of the following EXCEPT:

a. the social construction of the “other” as less than human, or human but inferior.

b. the belief that nature was a resource that needed to be dominated, controlled and exploited.

c. the commitment not to use violence against the “other.”

d. the belief that success and failure were the individual’s responsibility. e. none are exceptions

14.(m/c) All of the following are components of the myth of Manifest Destiny EXCEPT:

a. it is the destiny of the new American country to spread across the continent.

b. it is the destiny of the new American country to conquer and control the continent

c. God has ordained this process and is guiding it as depicted in John Gast’s painting American Progress.

d. a and b e. all of above

15.(m/c) Manifest destiny functioned in all of the following ways EXCEPT:

a. reinforced the belief that the country had a special relationship with God.

b. identified the Anglo-Saxon race as God’s new chosen people.

c. justified Indian removal. d. justified war with Mexico e. none are exceptions

16.(m/c) President McKinley prayed to God for guidance, and God answered, according to him, so the U.S. waged war, killed more than half a million people, and “benevolently assimilated” what country into its new empire?

a. Puerto Rico b. Cuba c. Philippines d. Hawaii e. none of the above

17.(m/c) Which of the following are parts of the mythology of the American capitalism?

a. it offers equal opportunity for all b. it was created out of the wilderness by rugged individuals.

c. anyone can be successful through hard work d. a and b e. all of above

18.(m/c) All of the following are characteristics of the current American economic system EXCEPT:

a. shared monopolies dominate every area of economic activity.

b. ownership is concentrated in large corporations governed by interlocking boards of directors

c. the government funds the activity of large corporations with direct and indirect subsidies.

d. small businesses are still the backbone of the economy. e. none are exceptions

19. According to Professor Semm, all of the following is (are) the reality of the American economy?

a. extreme and growing inequality in wealth and income b. limited ability for many to achieve their vital needs

c. limited upward mobility d. an American Dream that is more and more a dream than a possible reality for the majority. e. none are exceptions

20.(t/f) The first phase of the social construction of the American economic system is primitive accumulation. This refers to the wealth created by the indigenous cultures and the natural resources on the land they occupied.

21.(m/c) European culture had a different world view about nature than many indigenous cultures and believed all of the following?

a. nature was both ugly and frightening, inhabited by evil creatures.

b. animals had no souls and therefore were beyond salvation

c. animals were not rational therefore could be used for any purpose.

d. as capitalism emerged, both animals and nature were considered a natural resource that should be commodified.

e. none are exceptions

22.(m/c)) Part of the myth of American Exceptionalism is that western European society was civilized and indigenous cultures were uncivilized and barbarous. The civilized Europeans did which of the following to their world?

a. deforested it. b. let their animals overgraze the land c. polluted their rivers, creeks and streams

d. a and c e. all of above

23.(m/c) In order to transform the new world that was considered waste to them, the Europeans did all of the following EXCEPT:

a. deforested much of the forests in the eastern U.S. b. exterminated fur bearing herbivores along the East coast.

c. in Southern California killed 50,00 sea otters for fur d. in Southern California destroyed the grasslands.

e. none are exceptions

24.(t/f) According to Mike Davis, the comprehensive looting and destruction of the extraordinary biological endowment in the “new world” was the basis for the social construction of the American economic system.

25.(t/f) Colonists ignored the rights of Native Americans to the land they lived on by claiming they had not developed the land and it was therefore *terra nullius*, land occupied by no one.

26.(m/c) U.S. used the policy of Indian Removal to acquire the lands of the indigenous people, one example was the removal of the Cherokee. It involved which of the following?

a. the discovery of gold on the land occupied by the Cherokee. b. failure of Cherokee legal appeals to remain on the land

c. 1833 Trail of Tears where the Cherokee were removed to Oklahoma, over 3000 died on the trail.

d. a and c e. all of above

27.(t/f) It was not just the Cherokee who were removed, other tribes in the South and Midwest were removed, opening all land east of the Mississippi River to appropriation and exploitation by white settlers.

28.(m/c) The Plains Indians were removed by which of the following methods?

a. government subsidized extermination of the buffalo.

b. U.S. military attacks on villages in the middle of winter, Custer’s Washita massacre is an example.

c. violation of treaties d. a and b e. all of above

29.(t/f) Gold was discovered in the Black Hills and Custer and his Seventh Calvary built the road, called “Thieves Road,” that miners could use to get to the hills, even though the Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1868 acknowledged it belonged to the Indians.

30.(t/f) The state of California has officially apologized for its role in the genocide of indigenous populations in California.

31.(m/c) White trash was a socially constructed labor force that was created by which of the following means?

a. industrialization in England b. Acts of Enclosure b. Poor Laws d. a and b e. all of above

32.(t/f) White trash was referred to by the rich in England as human waste and sending them to the new world was a the same as flushing them down a toilet, the benefit being they could be used as labor in the “new world.”

33.(m/c) Which of the following groups made up white trash?

a. criminals who had to work for free b. children of the poor c. indentured servants

d. a and c e. all of above

34.(t/f) Poor and slave women were highly valued commodities because they were part of the labor force, and also because they produced children for the white trash and slave labor pool.

35.(m/c) All of the following are true about Columbus EXCEPT:

a. he discovered the island that he named Hispaniola b. he enslaved the indigenous people on the island

c. he exterminated the indigenous people on the island d. he created the African slave trade

e. none are exceptions

36.(m/c) Slavery provided the labor force for the American agricultural economy. Which of the following were factors in the social construction of slavery?

a. American Exceptionalism and the social construction of the “other.” b. U.S. Constitution

c. religion d. a and b e. all of above

37.(t/f) Slavery was not just a small part of the creation of the American economy, but central to it, by 1860 the four million slaves in the U.S. were the most valuable single financial entity in America.

38.(m/c) The work force for newly industrializing America was composed of all of the following EXCEPT:

a. small farmers forced of their land b. former slaves working the land as share croppers

c. Chinese and Irish Immigrants building the railroads d. b and c e. all of above

39.(m/c) The technology that drove the industrialization of the American economy was the railroad. Which of the following were ways that the railroad industry was subsidized?

a. land grants were given by the government to the industry. b. U.S. military protected the railways and their construction. c. Chinese Exclusion Act. d. a and b e. all of above

40.(m/c) The industrialization of the American economy led to all of the following EXCEPT?

a. the rise of the modern corporation b. urbanization c. national markets

d. a system of wage labor e. none are exceptions

41.(m/c) Fraser uses an event as a metaphor to support his argument about this transformation of the idea of progress; it is the:

a. World’s Fair of 1936 b. Columbian Exhibition of 1792 c. 1876 Centennial Exposition

42.(t/f) According to Fraser, the new idea of Progress created a new social hero, not the pioneer, not the soldier, but the business man, the American Entrepreneur.

43.(t/f) According to Fraser, the one thing the Robber Barons did not want was a free market and real competition.

44.(m/c) Fraser argues that the dispossession of the indigenous people was central to industrialization. He gives the example of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who were dispossessed of their land on Long Island.

a. Cherokee b. Iroquois c. Montauketts d. Powhatan e. Chumash

45.(t/f) Fraser argues that the elimination of pre-capitalist forms of production, what he calls disaccumulation, created markets for capitalist-supplied goods.

46.(m/c) Fraser argues that it was necessary for the newly industrializing America to create a proletariat to work in its factories. What were the means?

a. fencing off millions of acres with barbed wire, America’s form of “enclosure.” b. convict lease system

c. defrauding farmers of their land d. b and c e. all of above

47.(m/c) According to Fraser, all of the following were consequences of the formative phase of industrial capitalism EXCEPT:

a. it was a “killing ground” for workers, who died in extremely high numbers.

b. it led to the betterment of living conditions for workers. c. a significant part of the labor force were children.

d. it created a reserve army of unemployed that needed to be controlled. e. none are exceptions.

48.(m/c) All of the following were crimes created to ensure that former slaves would provide a labor force for the Southern economy EXCEPT:

a. talking to white women b. being impudent c. disobeying a boss d. partying e. none are exceptions

49.(m/c) According to Fraser, by the 1890s, it was commonly understood by most that America was a plutocracy, but he says most Americans were more concerned about something else. It was:

a. the emergence of an aristocracy in America. b. the threat of socialism

50.(m/c) All of the following were premonitions concerning the coming “Second Civil War” EXCEPT:

a. skilled artisans organizing and identifying themselves as a class.

b. worker movements for a ten hour day. c. gangs of militant workers controlling sections of New York City. d. criticism of the new economic system from writers and ministers. e. none are exceptions