Study Guide #1

Students are responsible for all lectures, in-class videos, and reading assignments. Exceptions: there will be no questions from Cadillac Desert.

1. American Exceptionalism.

a. Function: narrative, legitimation, justification, social control, exclusion.

b. American Exceptionalism: uniqueness, limitless possibilities, benevolence.

c. Constructing American Exceptionalism: Puritans, “founding Fathers,” Manifest Destiny, Social Darwinism. d. Terms: American Dream, Puritans, New Chosen People, New Covenant, Anglo-Saxonism, Benevolent Assimilation, rugged individualism, Garden of Eden.

2. Social Construction of the American Economic System: “Capitalism” a. Myths and reality of the American economic system. b. Phase One (Primitive Accumulation): dispossession of indigenous people, creating a landed aristocracy, removal of the Cherokee, exploitation of resources, social construction of a labor force.

c. Phase Two (Industrialization and Second Civil War): means of dispossession, driving forces in industrialization, primary industries, government subsidies

Terms: White Trash, "waste," dispossession, Trail of Tears, Indian Removal, Trail of Tears, Dawes Act, Acts of Enclosure, Poor Acts, monopolies, Gilded Age, Robber Barons.

3. Social Construction of the American Economic System: Phase Three and Four

a. Phase Three (The Great Prosperity): U.S. economy and WWII, acceleration of state subsidized monopoly capitalism, creating the new American dream and suburbia, the other side of the dream. b. Phase Four (State Subsidized Monopoly Capitalism): characteristics, power elite, social construction of corporatism, strategies of elite in response to social movements. Terms: Fairness Doctrine, FCC, Telecommunications Act of 1996, shock therapy, deindustrialization, stagflation, off-shoring, free trade agreements, containment, redlining, Atoms for Peace, Great Depression, WWII,