Study Guide #1

Students are responsible for all lectures, in-class videos, and reading assignments.

1. American Exceptionalisma.

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-Saxon, Guilded Age, Robber Barons, Calvinism, natural selection, survival of the fittest, Benevolent Assimilation, rugged individualism.

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 (Second Dispossessions and Industrialization): means of dispossession, driving forces in industrialization, primary industries, government subsidies d. 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. e. 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, Indian Wars, Dawes Act, Acts of Enclosure, Poor Acts, interlocking boards of directors, shared monopolies, bailouts.