Study Guide Exam #1

1. Sociological Perspective

a. What is the sociological perspective? What does C. Wright Mills mean by the Sociological Imagination?

b. In what ways does the sociological imagination contradict the conventional wisdoms of the “individual” and “individualism”?

c. What is social structure and what are its components? What is culture and what are its components?

d. What is socialization and how does it contradict conventional wisdom?

2. Social Theory

a. What is a social theory?

b. What is the order model (structural functionalism) and how does it explain society?

c. What is conflict theory and does it explain society?

d. How does each theory explain education? Explain the criminal justice system?

3. Stratification and Class

a. What is stratification and what are the two types? What are the characteristics of each type?

b. How do the conflict and order models explain stratification?

c. What is the reality of the system of stratification in the U.S? How unequal? Trends? Comparison?

d.What are the conventional wisdoms about poverty in the U.S.? How does reality contradict them? Who benefits from poverty?

4. Economy and Work

a. Economy: function, characteristics of capitalism and socialism.

b. U.S. monopoly capitalism: characteristics, factors in shaping economy, outcomes for corporations.

c. Power and monopoly capitalism: power over the economy, workers, communities, and the political system.

d. Great Recession: causes, crisis and its consequences.

Terms: socialism, capitalism, division of labor, means of production, law of supply and demand, market system*, laissez faire*, democratization, egalitarianism, shared monopoly, Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Clayton Act, concentration of ownership, interlocking directorates, “persons” within the meaning of the law, mergers, regulation, bailouts, subsidies, downsizing, off shoring, outsourcing, automation, race to the bottom, megamergers, falling rate of profit.