A. Constellation of Power in the U.S.

1. Large corporations dominate constellation + an entrenched upper class

a. socially constructed phenomenon

b. governed by an institutional logic and legal decision

c. U.S. economy

i. size

ii. concentration

iii. shared monopolies

d. goals:

i. control over other institutions

ii. maximize profit

e. interests

i. lower taxes

ii. privatization

iii. deregulation

iv. expansion

v. wealthfare

2. Control economic system

a. labor

b. means of production

c. markets

d. communities

3. Control the political system

a. campaign financing

b. lobbying

c. regulatory appointments (revolving door)

d. benefit

i. wealthfare

ii. deregulation

iii. privatization

iv. “bailouts”

4. own mass media

a. corporate owned

b. advertising sponsored

c. concentration of ownership

d. benefit: power to frame social discourse

i. controls information

ii. controls ideas

iii. experts

e. benefit: advertising or “the ad and the ego”

i. subjectivity is constructed

ii. compliant subjects who experience domination as freedom

iii. branding children and the triumph of consumerism

iv. “I buy therefore I am”

5. education

a. underfunding

b. gatekeeping: knowledge and class

c. devaluing knowledge and intelligence

d. social construction of ignorance and passivity

6. judicial/criminal justice system

a. judges

i. campaign financing

ii. lobbying

iii. appointments

b. laws

c. two cj systems

7. military-industrial complex

(military-industrial-intelligence-security complex)

a. resources

b. weapons contractors

c. security contractors (2003/3,512; 2006/116,000)

c. “empire of bases”/ benefits of war

d. . privatization

e. surveillance state