Study Guide # 1 (Fall ’09)

1. Identifying and Solving Social Problems.

a. Social problems: different interests/values: corporations, religious groups, mass media.

b. Common starting point: vital needs, trends, and patterns.

2. Shock Doctrine

a. CSU system: size, Master Plan, and Mission

b. SDSU: mission, emphasis, budget, funding, organizational structure.

c. Crisis: deficit, solutions, impact.

d. Teach-in: budget crisis and consquences, student activisim, what is education?

Terms: California Master Plan for Higher Education, Board of Trustees, Chancellor, President, Provost, Deans, Colleges, tenure, lecturers, furloughs, quality education

3. Inequality in America.

a. Concentration of wealth and income, include trend and comparison to other industrial countries.

b. Corporate ownership: concentration, size, mergers, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates, trend.

c. Interests of the capitalist class, individuals and corporations. What do they want?

d. Race and gender inequality in wealth and income, reasons and consequences.

e. Terms: wealth, net worth, income, real income, median income, financial wealth, mergers, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates.

4. Inequality and education:

a. The function and structure of public education in America.

b. No Child Left Behind and RTTT as solutions, origin, goals, means, contradictions.

c. Inequality and consequences: funding, socialization, excluded knowledge, teachers, resources, safety etc.

d. Terms: tracking, ability grouping, standardized testing, Rodriguez v. San Antonio, property tax, foundations, The Houston Miracle, school choice, RTTT.

5. Wealth, Power and democracy.

a. Democratic institutions and the way they are undermined: campaign financing, lobbying, soft money, revolving door, deregulation, enforcement, funding.

b. Wealthfare and examples.

c. Terms: deregulation, privatization, tort reform, Telecommunications Act of 1996, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, 527 Groups, town hall meetings, trade groups, front groups, Buckley v Valeo.

6. Mass Media as a Social Problem:

a. Ownership: concentration, size, shared monopoly, interlocking directorates, vertical and horizontal integration, trend

c. Function of press in a democracy/what would a democratic press cover.

d. Function of corporate press: cost reduction strategies.

e. Corporate media: dependency and content.

f. Terms: news briefings, press conferences, “experts”, investigative journalism, balance, think tank, VNRs, GNRs.

5. Corporate Media and War

a. Democracy and war: function of press.

b. Corporate coverage of Iraq War. Prewar, War (“That’s Militainment”), “good” war stories, and not so good war stories.

Terms: shared ownership, interlocking directorates, VNR, GNR, cluster bombs, depleted uranium, napalm, white phosphorous, Order 39, Blackwater, NEI.