Study Guide # 1

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. Inequality in America.

a. Concentration of individual 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. Terms: wealth, net worth, income, real income, median income, financial wealth, mergers, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates.

3. Inequality and democracy.

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

b. Wealthfare: definition 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.

4. 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, NIE, Cheney Energy Report, National Security Strategy.

6. War and Social Problems

a. Human costs: killed and wounded, disease and injury, post-war casualties and causes.

b. Other problems: $ cost, infrastructure, social order, refugees, economy, genocide, blowback, new weapons.

c. War and democracy: idea of freedom, Bill of Rights, due process, WWI, WWII, Cold War,

Vietnam War.

d. Operation Iraqi Freedom and American democracy: Patriot Act, TIPs, Domestic Security Enhancement Act

e. Terms: “Four Freedoms”, Sedition Act, EO9066, Bill of Rights, depleted uranium, agent orange, genocide, ethnic cleansing, PTSD, shake and bake, enemy combatants, Military Commissions Act, FISA court, sneak and peak, dirty tricks, COINTELPRO