I. Social Construction of Reality

A. We live in a socially constructed reality

1. World View

a. language

b. ideas, beliefs, norms and values

i. gender, race, nature

ii. romantic love, time, person/individual

c. conventional wisdoms

2. Institutions

a. economy

b. political system

c. education

d. science and technology

e. religion

3. It is not, “it is what it is”, not natural, not inevitable and not progress.

4. It was created by powerful groups despite

resistance

a. serves their interests

b. reflects the hubris of power

5. It is important to understand that this reality was created and that it

must be recreated

B. Approach

1. Great Transformation: Feudalism to Modernity

a. a unique transformation in history of societies and cultures

b. a radical break in Western society driven by powerful interests.

2. examine socially constructed nature of modernity.

a. free market

b. individual

c. science

d. progress

e. “other”

3. examine the social construction of postmodern “unreality”

a. technology and the social construction of unreality

b. technology and social control: power of the image

c. social media and the construction of passive subjects