I. Neo- Marxism: Critical Theory

A. Theorists: Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Jurgen Habermas, Erich Fromm

B. Major works

1. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*: Horkheimer and Adorno

*2. One Dimensional Man*: Marcuse

3. *Theory of Communicative Action*: Jurgen Habermas

4. *Escape from Freedom*: Erich Fromm

C. Marx’s social theory

1. key to understanding society is understanding capitalism:

a. system of exploitation

i. worker produces value

ii. worker sells labor power to capitalist

iii. profit (capital) is difference between value and workers’ wages

b. system of oppression

i. capitalist dominates

ii. capitalist shapes superstructure: political, legal, ideological

iii. society is organized oppression

c. stage that will self-destruct

i. internal dynamic in economic base (mode of production)

ii. forces of production v relations of product

iii. communism

2. Marx and the Enlightenment

a. grand narratives: reason, science, progress and autonomous individual

b. Marx: reason (dialectical), science and technology, and progress.

D. Neo-Marxism aka Critical theory (1920s to present)

1. What Happened! Fascism. communist totalitarianism, world wars genocide, consumerism

2. historical trajectory: not progress, but dystopia, system of total domination

3. “one dimensionality”: human beings can no longer even imagine another world or reasons why anyone would want to imagine another world.

4. more comprehensive analysis of society as system of domination

E. Constellation of domination

1. economy and domination

a. monopoly capitalism

b. workers no longer progressive force

i. embrace alienation and exploitation

ii. embrace false consciousness

2. mass media

a. culture industry

i. social construction of consumer subjectivity

ii. social construction of consumer utopia

b. consumer subjectivity

i. organized creation of discontent

ii. socially constructed needs and anxiety

iii. advertising and cultural space

iv. utopianism

3. social organization as domination: Weber

i. rationalization

ii. reason =instrumental rationality

iii. bureaucracy

iv. Holocaust and reason

4. technology as domination

a. Marx and technology: instrumental theory of technology

b. Frankenstein

c. “science discovers, technology executes, humans conform”

d. critical theory of technology