Study Guide Exam #1

1. Sociological Perspective

a. What is the sociological perspective? What does C. Wright Mills mean by the Sociological Imagination?

b. In what ways does the sociological imagination contradict the conventional wisdoms of the “individual” and “individualism”?

c. What is social structure and what are its components? What is culture and what are its components?

d. What is socialization and how does it contradict conventional wisdom?

2. Social Theory

a. What is a social theory?

b. What is the order model (structural functionalism) and how does it explain society?

c. What is conflict theory and does it explain society?

d. How does each theory explain education? Explain the criminal justice system?

3. Stratification and Class

a. What is stratification and what are the two types? What are the characteristics of each type?

b. How do the conflict and order models explain stratification?

c. What is the reality of the system of stratification in the U.S? How unequal? Trends? Comparison?

d.What are the conventional wisdoms about poverty in the U.S.? How does reality contradict them? Who benefits from poverty?

4. Education and the crisis of democracy.

a. Education’s two sides: institution of social order/institution of critical thinking, imagination, and disobedience.

b. Education as a subversive institution and threat to democracy? Why? Solutions? Success?

c. Inequality and education: funding, resources, teachers, segregation, tracking, consequences.