Study Guide Exam #1

You are responsible for all the material covered in the large section: lectures, videos and reading assignments. In an effort to help you, I have put together in a summary the main areas that I have covered in the past weeks. This is not an obligation or expectation of my social role.

The first area that we covered was the sociological perspective, what is was and how it different from the conventional wisdoms of individualism and the individual.

2. Social Theory (reference: Lecture “Introduction” and Chapter “The Duality of Social Life”)

a. What is a social theory?

b. How does structural functionalism (order model) explain society?

c. How does conflict theory (conflict model) explain society?

d. How does each theory explain education? Explain sports?

3. Social Structure, Culture and Process. (reference: Lecture “Introduction”)

a. What are the primary institutions in society? And what are the basic functions of each?

b. What is a social role? What is role conflict? Role strain? What experiment demonstrated the power of social roles to shape behavior?

c. What is culture? What are conventional wisdoms and what is their function? America is the Land of Equal Opportunity, Education is the Great Equalizer, Myth of Peaceful Progress, Hard Work Guarantees Success are conventional wisdoms. In what ways does reality contradict them?

d. What is socialization and what is its function according to the order and conflict models?

4. Stratification and Class (reference: Lecture “Stratification” and Chapters “Social Stratification” and “Class”)

a. What is stratification and what are the two types? What are the characteristics of each type? How do the conflict and order models explain stratification? India as an example of the caste system?

b. What is the system of stratification in the United States? What are its characteristics? What are the conventional wisdoms that justify it? How does the Davis Moore theory justify it?

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

d. How does the reality of the U.S. system contradict the conventional wisdoms?

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

Notes/Answers/Questions

5. Education, Democracy and Inequality. (reference: Lecture “Education” and Chapter “Education”)

a. Education: function, characteristics.

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

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

Notes/Answers/Questions