Study Guide Exam #1

Students are responsible for all lectures, in class videos and the following readings:

Klein: Introduction and Chapters 1-5

(The second exam will have questions from the Domhoff readings that have been assigned.)

1. Social Theory:

a. Definition of a theory, examples, social theories (structural functionalism, conflict, symbolic interactionism) and their main focus.

b. Characteristics of theory: logical structure, instrumental value, scientific method (incl assumptions of scientific method.

c. Adam Smith’s theory of the free market: theoretical assumptions, characteristics of the free market, laws of the market place, role of government.

Terms: theory, scientific method, empiricism, mind independent reality, universal laws, human nature, private property, competition, entrepreneur, monopolies, free labor, *laissez* *faire*.

2. Marx, Durkheim and Weber

a. Marx: origin of society, conflict and historical development, class conflict and capitalism.

Terms: mode of production, forces of production, relations of production, economic base, superstructure, class conflict, proletariat, bourgeoisie, false consciousness, alienation, exploitation.

b. Durkheim: nature of society, society as organism, problem of social order and modernity.

Terms: “social facts are things”, sui generis, mechanical solidarity, organic solidarity, anomie, egoism, collective conscience, socialization.

c. Weber: rationalization of society, characteristics of instrumental (formal) rationality, ideal typical bureaucracy.

Terms: rationalization, bureaucratization, instrumental rationality, dystopia, utopia, iron cage, calculable, predictable.

2. Structural Functionalism

a. 1950s America as a ‘finished society”.

Terms: utopia, social contract, “what is good for GM, is good for America,” nuclear family, Leave It to Beaver, the “End of History”.

b.. Parsons’ Structural Functionalism: functional imperatives, structural systems, positive function of inequality, social system and status role complex.

Terms: meritocracy, Davis Moore theory, determined action, need disposition, status role complex, latency function, AGIL.

3. 1950s: The Way We Never Were

a. What were the realities of the 1950s that contradicted the conventional wisdom that America of the 1950s was a utopia?

b. In what ways did the culture (movies, books, music, counter-cultures) of the 1950s reflect a more complex view of the time?

c. Terms: white collar worker, permanent war economy, Beat Generation, rock and roll,

military-industrial complex.

4. C.Wright Mills

a. “White Collar”: theoretical influence, nature of white collar jobs, consequences for workers.

b. Theory of the power elite: who rules and how? And what are the consequences for the individual?

Terms: bureaucracy, bureaucratization, division of labor, specialization, alienation, elite triumvirate, command positions, trunk decisions, moral insensibility, emotional labor, coercion, authority, manipulation.

5. Contemporary Free Market Theory

a. Friedman’s free market theory: nature of the market, problems, solutions.

b. Friedman’s shock therapy: why necessary, how imposed, what are the necessary policies?

c. Examples: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Iraq.

Terms: laissez faire, free labor, distortions, privatization, deregulation, tariffs, subsidies, price controls, free trade, shock therapy, financial liberalization.

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