Study Guide #1

The exam will cover material from the lectures, in-class videos, and reading assignments through week 5 on the Syllabus. And there also will be questions on the exam from the Chris Hedges video The Rise of the Corporate Class.

1. Myth of American Exceptionalism

a. What is the primary belief of American Exceptionalism? What are the claims that are used to justify the myth?

b. How does the myth of American Exceptionalism serve as an ideological justification for U.S. domestic and foreign policy? Serve as an instrument of social control?

Terms: myth, “New Chosen People,” City on the Hill, American Dream, benevolent, Manifest Destiny.

2. Corporatism

a. What is the definition of corporatism? What are its goals? What institutions is it able to shape and control?

b. Corporatism and the economic system: structure of the economic system, historical and social factors in its development, consequences for the economy, labor and people.

Terms: Second Civil War, Red Scare, shared monopoly, multi-national corporation, indentured servitude, land grants, deindustrialization, producer networks, upper class.

3. Corporatism and the Political System

a. How does corporate power shape and control the political system? Campaign financing, lobbying, judicial and regulatory capture.

b. What are the four power networks? What is the function of each within the corporatist system?

c. What is the definition of "wealthfare"? How does "wealthfare" make the rich richer and the poor poorer? Examples.

Terms: bailouts, tax breaks, tax loopholes, subsidies, estate tax, carried interest, Super PACs, 501c4, manufacture consent, think tanks,

4. Corporatism and the Ideological Institutions

a. What is the primary goal of the corporatist system in relation to the people?

a. What are the goals of the corporatist in relation to the ideological institutions? What are the ideological institutions?

b. How is education being restructured within the corporate system of power? Goals?

c. How are mass media and social media structured in the corporate system of power? What are the goals and techniques? How successful have they been?

Terms: vocationalization, socialization, indoctrination, privatization, public good, commodification, magic kingdom, consumer psyche, virtual reality.

5. Corporatism and the police and military?

a. What is the structure and function of the police within the system of power?

b. What is the structure and function of the military within the system of power?

Terms: militarization of the police, disenfranchised, crimes of the poor, corporate crime,

military-industrial complex, global interests.