Study Guide #1

You are responsible for:

All lectures and in-class videos through week of Feb 20-24.

Klein: Chapters Intro, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

1. Origin of Social Theory

a. Great Transformation: characteristics of Feudal society, forces of social change, characteristics of modern society.

b. Classical theory: definition, characteristics, assumptions.

Terms: Great Chain of Being, revelation, divine right, Protestant Reformation, Enlightenment, human sciences, natural sciences, empiricism, scientific method, positivism, Law of Three Stages, social evolutionism.

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.

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, rationalization and dystopia.

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

3. 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.

4. Power Elite

a. Realities of the 1950s that contradicted the conventional wisdom that America of the 1950s was a utopia?

b. In Mills’ theory of the power elite who rules, 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, white collar worker, permanent war economy, Beat Generation, rock and roll, military-industrial complex, alienation..

5. Theory of Free Market Capitalism

a. Theorists, classical and contemporary, their works and their assumptions about the free market, human beings and economics as a science.

b. Free market theory of Adam Smith: why is capitalism the best economic system and what are the Laws of the Marketplace? What is the role, if any, of the government?

c.. Free market theory of Milton Friedman: how does he agree or disagree with Smith, the role of government? What should the policy goals, economic and social, of a free market system be, according to Friedman? What is shock therapy and why does he think it is necessary?

Terms: laissez faire, free labor, law of supply and demand, financial infrastructure, deregulation, privatization, shock doctrine, competition, greed, self-interest, pursuit of profit, eugenics, feeble minded, social Darwinism, “survival of the fittest.”