Study Guide #1

Readings you are responsible for:

Ritzer: Chapters Intro, 1, 2, 3

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.

c. Skepticism and Contemporary theory: history, science as progress, universal laws, social evolutionism, Grand Narrative

Terms: Great Chain of Being, revelation, divine right, Protestant Reformation, Enlightenment, human sciences, natural sciences, empiricism, scientific method, positivism, Law of Three Stages, verification, falsification, social evolutionism, Grand Narrative, laws of nature, Natural Law.

2. Marx, Durkheim and Weber

a. Marx: origin of society, conflict and historical development, class conflict and capitalism, Marxism and classical assumptions, influence on contemporary theory..

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, classical assumptions, and influence on contemporary theory.

Terms: “social facts are things”, sui generic, 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.

3. 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 four Laws of the Marketplace? What is the role, if any, of the government?

c. Social Darwinism: theoretical influences, practical and policy implications.

d. 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 Smith? What is shock therapy and why does he think it is necessary?.

Terms: laissez faire, free wage labor, law of supply and demand, financial infrastructure, deregulation, privatization, shock doctrine, competition, greed, self-interest, pursuit of profit, eugenics, feeble minded..

4. Shock Doctrine

a. What were Ewen Cameron and the CIAs psychological experiments? And in what way are they a metaphor and analogy for “disaster capitalism”?

b. What are Milton Friedman’s theories according to Klein? Where and how was Friedman able to experiment with his laissez faire doctrines?

c. Chile and Argentina and the shock doctrine.

5. Disaster Capitalism: SDSU

a. California financial disaster: natural or created.

b. Shock therapy: solutions, impact.

d. “Crisis of Democracy” and shock therapy: depoliticize, restructuring.

Terms: Proposition 13, oil royalties, furloughs, budget cuts, FTES, quality education, excess of democracy, manufacturing consent, pacification

6. Structural Functionalism

a. Influence: theoretical, American exceptionalism, 1950s Utopian America.

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

c. Parsons “made easy”?

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