Study Guide #2 Soc 403

The second exam will include all lecture material, in-class videos, and on-line assignments since the last exam. The readings that will be included are as follows:

Who Rules America?: all chapters assigned in the Syllabus (questions will be general).

Shock Doctrine: Chapters 6, 7 and 8.

1. Class domination theory

a. Who belongs to the upper class in America? How to they rule? And how does Domhoff support his claims that the upper class is both an economic class and a social class?

b. How does the upper class control the economic system?

c. How does the upper class control the political system?

Terms: power networks, power indicators, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates, outsourcing, off shoring, downsizing, rights sizing, capital flight, Bohemian Grove, Alfalfa Club, special interest process, policy-planning process, candidate selection process, opinion shaping process, think tanks, foundations, collective power, distributive power, domination, campaign financing, strategic alliances, producer networks, corporate community.

2. Neo-Marxism

a. Marx’s social theory and capitalism as a system of domination: conflict, exploitation and oppression.

c. Neo-Marxism: central question, origin of domination, the “cave.”

d. Constellation of domination: economy, mass media, world view, social organization, technology.

Terms: base, superstructure, forces of production, relations of production, fetishization of the commodity, false consciousness, subjectivity, one dimensionality, critical thinking, Frankenstein, culture industry, bureaucracy, dehumanization, consumer subjectivity, consumer utopia, state subsidized economy, primitive fear of nature.

3. Social Theories of Technology

a. Characteristics of instrumental theory of technology: tool, universal, progressive, utopia.

b. Critical theory of technology: social context and power arrangement: industrial capitalism, bureaucracy, mass society, war and world view.

c. Technology as a reflection of social formation: measure of progress, institutional determinants, unintended consequences, solutions.

Terms: factory farming, colonialism, neocolonialism, precautionary principle, product responsibility principle, technosphere, offshoring, planned and dynamic obsolescence, industrial capitalism, social formation, power relations.

4. Postmodern Social Theory

a. Modernity: characteristics, social theory and enlightenment, modernity and power.

b. Post-modernism; characteristics, social theory, power.

c. Foucault: what is Foucault’s analytic of power, knowledge/power.

d. Baurdrillard and the Matrix: simulation, implosion and hyperreality”?

Terms: bio-power, disciplinary institutions, disciplinary knowledge, repressive hypothesis, Panopticon, the Gaze.