Study Guide Exam #2

1. Social Theory, Power and Social Control

a. Social theory and unfreedom: crowd and its characteristics, the public and its characteristics. How can each be manipulated?

b. Social control: democratic realism and its assumptions, public relations and its techniques.

c. The practice of manufacturing consent: WWI, Gulf Wars.

Terms: think tanks, front groups, Creel Commission, scientific elite, bureau of experts, manufacturing consent, charismatic leader, law of mental unity, collective mind..

2. Neo-Marxism

a. What is the main question asked by critical theorists?

b. Marx’s focus: assumptions, analysis.

c. Critical theory: concept of domination/exploitation, origin, constellation, consequences.

d. Culture industry: what is it and how is it related to the Allegory of the Cave.

Terms: base superstructure, fetishization of the commodity, false consciousness, subjectivity, one dimensional, critical thinking, Frankenstein.

3. Postmodern Social Theory

a. Foucault: what is Foucault’s theory of power, its characteristics, and how does it differ from traditional theories of power?

b. Panopticon: what is it and how does it relate to Foucault’s theory of power? How does it relate to contemporary American society?

c. Baurdrillard: what does Baudrillard mean by hyperreality”?

Terms: simulacra, simulation, web-like, ubiquitous, disciplinary institutions, human beings as subjects and objects, knowledge/power.

4. Social movements and the 1960s.

a. 1960s social movements: examples, characteristics, successes.

b. Samuel Huntington and “The Crisis of Democracy”: problem, goals, solutions..

Terms: social movements, grassroots, astroturf, strategy, tactics, excess of democracy, legitimation, manufacturing consent, passification, vocational institution, gatekeeper.

5. Political Process Theory

a. Theory: assumptions, conditions for emergence of social movement, success.

b. Reasons for the failure of social movements.

c. Examples from “black insurgency”

Terms: modified elite theory of power, pluralist theory of power, elite theory of power, homogenous, political opportunity, indigenous organizations, cognitive liberation, formal movement organizations, political opportunity, King Cotton, black migration, Cold War, urbanization, integration, strategy, tactics, repression, CONTELPRO, repression,

cooptation..