Study Guide #2

The exam will cover the in-class lectures and videos and the reading assignments on the Course Syllabus since the last exam.

1. Economy

a. Economy: function, characteristics of capitalism and socialism.

b. U.S. monopoly capitalism: characteristics, factors in shaping economy, outcomes for corporations.

c. Power and monopoly capitalism: power over the economy, workers, communities, and the political system.

d. Great Recession: causes, crisis and its consequences.

Terms: socialism, capitalism, division of labor, means of production, law of supply and demand, market system*, laissez faire*, democratization, egalitarianism, shared monopoly, Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Clayton Act, concentration of ownership, interlocking directorates, “persons” within the meaning of the law, mergers, regulation, bailouts, subsidies, downsizing, off shoring, outsourcing, automation, race to the bottom, megamergers, falling rate of profit.

2. Work

a. Post-WWII-1970: division of labor, extent of inequality, social contract.

b. Service-based economy: division of labor, characteristics, outcomes for workers, San Diego as an example.

c. Problems of work in U.S. society: control of workers, alienation, harmful conditions, sweatshops, discrimination.

Terms: industrialization, blue collar jobs, white collar jobs, social contract, “what’s good for GM is good for American,” McJob, internship, unions, sweatshops, alienation, scientific management, personal bankruptcies.

3. Political Systems and Power

a. Democracy: who governs, means, what is the nature of power, what is the role of government, the limits of government, function of a free press.

b. Mills’ Theory of the Power Elite: who governs in the U.S., means of governance, relation of government to the people.

c. Domhoff’s Class Domination Theory (or Governing Class Theory): who governs in the U.S., means of governance, power networks, empirical evidence.

d. Consequences of Concentrated Power: subsidies, trickle down solutions, burden, foreign policy.

Terms: pluralism, veto groups, “command” positions, “trunk” decisions, plutocracy, propaganda, upper class, producer networks, interlocking directorates, means of production, candidate selection process, special interests process, policy planning process, opinion shaping process, campaign financing, lobbying, Citizens United, subsidies.

4. Mass Media

a. Mass Media as Modern Cave: hours spent with media, concentration of ownership, function of for-profit media, media as institution of socialization and social control.

b. Manufacturing Consent: assumptions, means, goals, success.

c. Corporate News: function of news/journalism in economy, function of corporate news, means of increasing profit, consequences of cost cutting, local journalism as “advertainment.”

Terms: socialization, social control, media, social role, norm, value, wish list, journalism, filter, Fourth Estate, investigative report, press releases, press conferences, VNR, GNR, “balance.”