Study Guide #1

Readings you are responsible for:

Ritzer: Chapters Intro, 1, 2, 3

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

1. 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, exploitation.

b. Durkheim: nature of society, society as organism, problem of social order and modernity.

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, calculable, predictable..

2. 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.

c. Parsons “made easy”?

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

3. 1950s: The Way We Never Were

a. What were the realities of the 1950s that contradicted the conventional wisdom that America of the 1950s was a utopia?

b. In what ways did the culture (movies, books, music, counter-cultures) of the 1950s reflect a more complex view of the time?

c. Terms: white collar worker, permanent war economy, Beat Generation, rock and roll,

military-industrial complex.

4. C.Wright Mills

a. In “White Collar” Mills criticized large organizations and the demands they placed on people. . Which classical theorists influenced him and, according to Mills, what is the nature of white collar work and what are the consequences for white collar workers?

c. 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.

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. 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 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..

6. 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.

d. What are the limits to the human rights approach, according to Klein?