Study Guide #2

Along with the lectures, students are responsible for all of the assigned readings and any videos or documentaries shown in class.

1. Class domination theory

a. Who belongs to the upper class in America? 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, front groups, public relations, third person technique, focus groups, lobbying, campaign financing.

2. Neo-Marxism

a. What is the “new” focus of critical theory and how did it differ from the focus of classical Marxist theory? What is the new concept of domination/exploitation in Neo-Marxism.

b. What is the culture industry, how did it develop in American society, and why do critical theorists believe it is a modern “cave.”

c. Describe modern consumer society and the successes of the “consumered” consciousness.

d. Fromm: human needs, feudal society vs modern society, why is Fascism attractive.

Terms: base superstructure, fetishization of the commodity, false consciousness, subjectivity, urbanization, industrialization, national markets, *id*, collective behavior, Committee on Public Information, Gospel of Mass Consumption, installment, planned and dynamic obsolescence.

3. Social movements and the 1960s.

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

b. “The Crisis of Democracy”: problem, goals, solutions, successes.

Terms: social movements, grassroots, astroturf, tea baggers, strategy, tactics, excess of democracy, legitimation, manufacturing consent, depoliticization, passification, vocational institution, gatekeeper, business model, socialization.

4. Political Process Theory

a. Goal, assumptions, emergence, 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..