Study Guide Exam 1

You are responsible for:

All in-class lectures, videos and documentaries through Feb 23.

Gangs of America: Chapters: Intro, 1-7, 11-15.

Second Thoughts: “The More We Pay the More It’s Worth” and

“Violence Is on the Rise in the United States---No One is Safe.”

1. Social Problems.

a. Sociology: definition, focus, point of view

b. Identifying social problems: corporations, mass media.

c. Vital needs: what are they? What are the trends? Causes?

d. Power in America: structure, goals, means.

Terms: regulation, deregulation, tort reform, “frivolous” law suits, privatization, real income, foreclosure, bankruptcy, “if it bleeds, it leads,” Annenberg study, physical infrastructure, plutocracy.

2. Inequality in America.

a. Wealth and income: definitions, concentration, trend and causes.

b. Corporate America: definition, changing nature of corporation, concentration, size, mergers, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates, trend, consequences for society.

c. Middle class, race and gender in wealth and income, reasons and consequences.

Terms: wealth, net worth, income, real income, median income, financial wealth, mergers, shared monopolies, interlocking directorates, downward mobility, investment income, labor income, estate tax, death tax, capital gains tax, IPO, deregulation, Gini Index

3. Wealth, power and democracy.

a. Democratic institutions and function within democratic society.

b. Wealth and power and the undermining democratic institutions.

c. “Wealthfare” and examples.

Terms: deregulation, privatization, tort reform, Telecommunications Act of 1996, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, 527 Groups, town hall meetings, PACs, trade groups, front groups, Buckley v Valeo, lobbyists, “revolving door”, wealth primary, “town hall meetings,” bailouts, photo ops, media consultants, Citizens United.

4. Mass Media as a Social Problem

a. Definition, function, and power.

b. Ownership: concentration, size, shared monopoly, interlocking directorates, shared ownership, vertical and horizontal integration, synergy, trend.

5. Gangs of America

a. Introduction: What got the author interested in the study of corporate power? What does the title of the book mean and what are its implications for America democracy?

b. What are the three phases of corporate empowerment? How were corporations empowered in each phase? What were the rights corporations gained and how did they negatively affect the “people”?

c. What were the goals of the leaders in early America in regard to corporations? What did these leaders believe the main function of corporations should be? What was the system of control of corporations that was established in early America (pre-Civil War constraints)?

d. What were the nine “superpowers” acquired by corporations after the Civil War?

e. What was the impact of the ideology of social Darwinism on workers, women, children and how did it benefit corporations? When did labor organization begin and what political, legislative and judicial resistance did it face?

f. According to corporate leaders and their advocates, during the 1970s, corporations faced serious problems in America. What were the problems and what were solutions were designed to solve the problems?

g. Terms: law of master slave, crimes of status, relative liberty, Paris Commune, food disparagement laws, ALEC, front groups, Social Darwinism, charter system, shape shifting

6. Second Thoughts

Terms: income, Davis-Moore thesis, functional analysis, conflict analysis, wealth, power, occupational prestige, stratification system, occupational prestige scale, Uniform Crime Reports, victimization studies, social construction of reality, “friendly murders,” occupation related injuries and death, meta-analysis