Study Guide 2

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, strategic alliances, producer networks, corporate community.

2. 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..

3. Neo-Marxism

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

b. Marx’s focus: assumptions, analysis.

c. Critical theory: historical context, intellectural influences, concept of domination/exploitation, origin, consequences.

d. Culture industry: what is it, what is its function in the system of domination, and how is it related to the Allegory of the Cave.

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