1. Power: Traditional idea and concepts.

a. Weber’s concept of power: definition, assumptions, power and society, and means of establishing and maintaining power.

b. Pluralist theory of power: nature of power, public and power, institutions, and conventional wisdom in the U.S.

c. Power Elite theory: who rules, what positions, how, and cohesion.

d. State autonomy theory: state as predominant power, reasons why?

Terms: legitimation, propaganda, ideology, institutional subversion, “producing subjectivity,” command positions, trunk decision, “state.”

2. Domhoff’s class domination theory (Who Rules America?).

a. Upper class in America: economic and social class, inequality in wealth and income, collective power, distributive power, and power indicators.

b. Upper class as a corporate community: organizational network, origin, boards of directors, concentration of ownership.

c. Upper class as a social class: social interaction, social cohesion, shared world view, education, clubs, and corporate ownership.

d. Class domination and the political system: campaign finance, power networks and the domination of the political system.

Terms: interlocking directorates, outsourcing, Bohemian Grove, Alfalfa Club, holding companies, investment partnerships, membership network analysis, overlapping members, special interest process, policy-planning process, candidate selection process, opinions shaping process, power networks, think tanks, foundations, policy-discussion groups, single-member-district plurality system, 527 Groups.

3. Constellation of power (Structural, or Institutional Theory).

a. Overall structure: top 1%/500 largest corporations, economic system, political system, mass media, education, judicial/criminal system, military industrial complex, Christian right.

b. economic power: legal definition of corporation, size, concentration of ownership, control means of production, control markets, control labor, control communities.

c. Who Killed the Electric Car? An example of economic power.

Terms: shared monopolies, mergers, acquisitions, shared ownership, strategic alliances, producer networks, off shoring, outsourcing, downsizing, capital flight, NLRB, Fourteenth Amendment.

4. Wealth and power: political system.

a. Democratic institutions in the US and power: campaign financing, lobbying, policy planning network.

b. Opinion shaping process: mass media and public relations firms.

c. Wealthfare: Who wins? Who benefits? Examples.

d. Terms: incumbents, wealthfare, wealth primary, front groups, think tanks, policy discussion groups, revolving door, media consultants, bailouts.