Sociology 150: Study Guide Exam #2 (Fall 09)

1. Changing nature of work and downward mobility.

a. Economy and jobs: pre-Civil war, post-Civil War, 1950s-mid 70s, present.

b. Deindustrialization: causes.

c. McJobs: characteristics

d. Downward mobility and its consequences: workers, families, communities.

e. Terms: downsizing, off shoring, outsourcing, mergers, second shift, moonlighting, foreclosures, bankruptcy, child care

2. Poverty

a. Poverty line, rate and trends in poverty, comparison to other countries.

b. Consequences of poverty: cycle of poverty.

c. Who benefits?

d. Terms: poverty line, working poor, severely poor, near poor, welfare reform, Thrifty Food Plan, poverty surcharge.

3. Inequality and education:

a. The function of public education in America.

b. The structure of public education in America.

c. No Child Left Behind as a solution, origin, goals, means, contradictions.

d. Inequality and consequences: funding, socialization, excluded knowledge, teachers, resources, safety etc.

e. Terms: tracking, ability grouping, standardized testing, Rodriguez v. San Antonio, property tax, foundations, The Houston Miracle, school choice.

4. Inequality in health and health care.

a. America’s health: life expectancy, infant mortality, mortality rates, “unhealthful social factors,” and inequality in health.

b. Public health approach: prevention, social changes that have and would improve the health of Americans. What powerful groups would resist the above changes?

c. How expensive is health care in America? How does it rate globally? The three tiered structure of health care in America.

d. Who controls its production and distribution? What are their “interests”? How do they pursue their interests? HMOs, pharmaceutical corporations, private hospitals.

Terms: boutique, gatekeeping, medlining, front group, trade group, lobbying, campaign financing, DTCs,

5. Marriage and Divorce.

a. Marriage in America: trend, comparison to 1950s, to other countries.

b. Happiness in marriage: self-reporting, objective correlates to happiness.

c. Marriage as a complex institution.

d. Divorce: rate, trend, comparative. Causes and consequences?

e. The family and violence? Nature, causes, consequences of abuse.