I. The Changing Nature of Work

A. Early America

1. Economy: agricultural-based

2. Jobs: agriculture

B. Post-Civil War

1. economy: industrial-based

2. jobs

a. railroads

b. mining

c. factory

C. Post WWII-Mid 1970s

1. Economy: consumer-based/permanent war economy

a. construction: housing and highways

b. consumer items

c. auto (GM: “What is good for GM is good for America”)

d. advertising and marketing

e. weapons production

2. jobs: white and blue collar

3. American Dream

a. Leave It to Beaver

b. 60% middle class

c. 60% homeowners

4. Social contract

a. decent wage

b. job security and promotion

c. benefits

d. retirement

D. Mid 1970s to present: Deindustrialization

1. Economy: service-based

2. jobs: 75% service

a. top tier: investment banker, lawyer, stock broker

b. middle tier: school teacher, social worker, criminal justice

c. majority: McJobs

i. part-time

ii. low wage

iii. no benefits/too expensive

iv. no advancement

v. easily replaceable

3. other jobs

a. Temps

i. +400 per cent since 1980s

ii. “Permatemps”

b. high tech jobs: under 10%

c. manufacturing: under 10%

4. Example: San Diego

a. 61% since 2001 less than $25,000

b. mainly in service sector

c. food preparation 11% of all jobs decline in wages avg $18,000

d. overall wages up 9.6% inflation up 12.3%

5. U.S.: job gain/loss

a. net gain

b. 50 million lost 1980-2001

i. white and blue collar

ii. manufacturing jobs since 2001 3 million

E. Causes

1. automation

2. job flight or off-shoring

a. eliminate manufacturing

b. hi-tec, financial services, health care

3. downsizing or “rightsizing”: social contract?!

4. outsourcing

a. contractors

b. temps

5. mergers and acquisitions

6. Examples

a. GE

b. Walmart

c. Visa, Mastercard

d. Microsoft

F. Deindustrialization and the “Downward Mobility” of the Middle Class

1. Strategies to attain or maintain

a. moonlighting: 8 million +

b. women in the workforce: 60%

c. borrow

i. home improvement loans

ii. credit card

2. Vital needs: work, home, debt

a. unemployment (26 year high, +7 million since Dec 07)

b. more hours 200+ (since 1970s)

c. less leisure

d. foreclosures

e. household debt: $9.0 trillion

f. credit card debt

g. bankruptcies

h. auto repossession: 2x in last 5 years (2.5 million)

3. Vital needs: family

a. second shift

b. child care

i. $750 per month per child

ii. SDSU $1100 per month

c. marital instability

i. arguments

ii. domestic violence

iii. alcohol and other drug abuse

4. Vital Needs: Communities

a. communities: job flight

i. inner cities in North

ii. South Central LA

b. downward mobility and taxes

i. no tax increases

ii. public spending: schools

iii. public sector: privatization