Sociology 210 (Freese): Reading Guide for material from the Giddens and Duneier textbook to help you prepare for the midterm examination

Guide for Weeks 4 & 5

Questions below are taken from the website resource available at: http://www.wwnorton.com/giddens/. For each chapter, we have taken the questions that most resemble the substance and form of questions from the readings that you might expect to see on the midterm, and we have also added some “other points of importance” not covered in these quizzes. We will not be taking any questions directly from these quizzes for the exams, but they should be pointing you toward the concepts and ideas that we most want you to attend to in the readings. Also note that this guide is provided as a good faith effort to be helpful in your preparations for the exam; it does not in any way constitute a “contract” regarding what will and will not be on the exam (except that material placed in brackets and marked with a NO will definitely not be on the exam).

Chapter 7

1 - What is social stratification?
2 - What is the difference between income and wealth?
3 - What is the difference between (1) exchange mobility and (2) structural mobility?
5 - What is the basis of Karl Marx's theory of class?
8 - Is there more social mobility in the United States than in other industrialized countries?
9 - What is cultural capital?
10 - Women often experience downward mobility as a result of what?
11 - What is the key variable explaining upward social mobility?
12 - As the economy prospers and more better-paying jobs become available, the result will be more __________ mobility
13 - How do sociologists define the "underclass"?
14 - What is the conventional position on the role of women in class analysis?
15 - What is the difference between (1) intragenerational mobility and (2) intergenerational mobility?, 18 - Why did systems of slave labor break down?
19 - What was deinstitutionalization and how did it contribute to homelessness?
20 - What key addition did Max Weber make to Karl Marx's theory of class?
23 - What role has globalization played in the increase in inequality in the United States in the last two decades?
25 - Erik Olin Wright called the class positions of those who exploit and/or dominate but are also exploited and dominated
26 - What is the difference between (1) absolute poverty and (2) relative poverty?
30 - Max Weber called the opportunities one has for achieving economic prosperity

Other points of importance: main respects in which class systems differ from slavery, castes, estates; idea of occupations having prestige scores (p. 154; is being a college professor really more prestigious than being a lawyer or dentist? If so, cool!); complications with the idea that the US is a middle-class society; underclass; are there societies in which women possess equal wealth, status, and influence as men?; absolute vs. relative poverty; poverty line (how is it calculated?); relationship between US social welfare systems and that of other nations (p. 166—this is an intriguing table); contradictory class locations; [NO: Davis and Moore section or the section on Frank Parkin and social closure]

Chapter 12

2 - What is the relationship between the increasing complexity of the division of labor and the expansion of economic interdependence?
5 - What has been the general impact of the introduction of computerized technology in the workplace?, 9 - What is the difference between high-trust and low-trust systems of production?
10 - What is Taylorism?
14 - What is Fordism?
15 - What is the principle limitation of Fordism?
18 - What was Marx's theory of alienation?
23 - Why are unions mainly defensive organizations?
24 - Which of the following is the key complex of factors that has weakened union influence in the last two decades?
25 - What is a "portfolio worker"?
29 - What is deindustrialization and which group has it impacted the most?

*Other points of importance:* strike and unions; [NO: “Types of Corporate Capitalism” or “Types of Transnational Corporations”]; automation, group production, and flexible production; [NO: Gorz and his theory of the “dual society”]

**Chapter 14**

1 - Why did formal school systems develop?
6 - What is the "hidden curriculum"?
7 - What happens when children today take I.Q. tests from the 1930s?
9 - What is "social reproduction"?
12 - What is the principal shortcoming of Jonathan Kozol's book Savage Inequalities?
16 - What was the main conclusion of the landmark studies of educational inequality carried out in the 1960s by James Coleman and Christopher Jencks?
19 - What is shown by sociological research on the impact of tracking in schools?
20 - In Willis's study "Learning to Labor," what roles were played by "the lads" and "the ear'oles"?
22 - What is "cultural capital"?

*Other points of importance:* Difference between US and other countries in proportion of private college and proportion of persons who have some form of higher education; what is meant by the “internationalization of education” ; “between-school effects” and “within-school effects”; what does your book call the “baseline” of education in its discussion of education in the Third World?