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

Guide for Weeks 6, 7, & 8

Questions below are taken from the website resource available at: [http://www.wwnorton.com/giddens/](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.

Chapter 10

1 - Most social systems in the traditional world developed over lengthy periods of time as a result of custom and habit. Organizations, on the other hand, are mostly...
2 - According to Foucault, what is the significance of the architecture of the building in which an organization is housed?
4 - Why are timetables important to organizations?
5 - In the premodern world, families, close relatives and neighbors provided for most needs. In modern times, the mass of the population is much more...
6 - What is the definition of "McDonaldization"?
8 - There are two polar views of bureaucracy: (a) equates it with red tape, inefficiency, and wastefulness; while (b) regards bureaucracy as a model of carefulness, precision, and effective administration. Which did Weber support?
9 - According to Weber, what is the significance of writing to organizations?
13 - What is the "iron law of oligarchy"?
14 - What is the "iron cage of bureaucracy"?
20 - What are the principal disadvantages of constant surveillance in organizations?
21 - Weber created an "ideal type" of bureaucracy — but what is an "ideal type"?
23 - What's the difference between the way a new employee would be trained in (1) a Western corporation and the way he or she would be trained in (2) a Japanese corporation?
24 - What is the significance of "informal relations" within bureaucracies?
27 - Which research finding leads sociologists to doubt that the "iron law of oligarchy" is an iron law?

*Other points of importance:* characteristics of the ideal type of bureaucracy; formal relations and informal relations in bureaucracies; what does it mean to say that we live in a surveillance society; professionals and gatekeepers; - NO: “networks” and “time and space in reordering modern organizations”

Chapter 3

1 - What are values?
2 - What are cultural universals?
7 - What is "the culture of poverty" argument?
9 - What are norms?
11 - What is culture?
14 - What is material culture?
16 - What was the basis for the rise of modern societies?
20 - What was colonialism?

*Other points of importance:* [NO: “The Human Species: Nature and Nurture”], industrialization, nation-state; culture vs. social structure debates about explaining poverty

**Chapter 4**

1 - What is socialization?
3 - What is the "generalized other"?
4 - What are the main agents of socialization in contemporary society?
6 - What is gender socialization?
9 - The general theoretical approach in sociology that has influenced thinking on the socialization process is...
15 - When does socialization end?
17 - What is the difference between the "I" and the "Me"?
24 - When was "young adulthood" invented?
27 - What is the demographic change that will likely alter our society’s definition of the life course in the next fifty years?
30 - In traditional versus modern societies, what is the most important difference regarding how the elderly are generally viewed?

*Other points of importance:* [NO: “Jean Piaget and the Stages of Cognitive Development”]; gender roles and gender socialization

**Chapter 5**

2 - What is the difference between (1) achieved status and (2) ascribed status?
3 - What is social constructionism?
9 - Erving Goffman’s idea that social life is divided into front regions and back regions is known as the ________ model.
11 - Human beings have a "compulsion to proximity," or the need to...
12 - What is ethnomethodology?
13 - Why do people use impression management?
17 - What is a "Garfinkel experiment"?
20 - What is the difference between (1) civil inattention and (2) unfocused interaction?

*Other points of importance:* response cries (the interesting thing being that they are expressions to oneself that are usually not made if one is alone); [NO: “slips of the tongue”]; master status; [NO: section on “international tourism”]