**Study Guide for FINAL Exam**

What is Sociology

1. What is the sociological imagination, according to C. Wright Mills? Why is it important that we are able to draw connections between the personal and the social, between biography and history?

Culture and Society

2. What is culture? What are its most important characteristics? How does it inform our lives? Explain, while also illustrating with some good examples, what ‘subculture’ and ‘counterculture’ are. How multiculturalism and ethnocentrism differ. Furthermore, in an increasingly globalized world are we rapidly turning into a single global culture?

3. Gender stereotypes and gender ideology are promoted and perpetuated through various means, including the “hard sciences” and biology, as Emily Martin suggests in her seminal article “The Egg and the Sperm.” Discuss in some detail the author’s main argument as well as the risks involved in attributing human personalities to eggs and sperms.

Groups, Networks and Organizations

4. Identify and describe the five different characteristics of bureaucracy, according to Weber. What are the positive and negative effects of the rationalization of society? In your answer consider the “McDonaldization” thesis and the film “Office Space.” Why corporate drone Peter Gibbons (Ron Livingston) hates his soul-killing job at software company Initech?

Conformity, Deviance, and Crime

5. Conflict theoristsanalyze crime and deviance in terms of the social structure and the preservation of power among the ruling class. Explain in some detail “conflict theory” and “control theory” and provide examples on the one side of political acts that challenge the social order and on the other policies and practices associated with “control theory”.

Ethnicity and Race

6. How is race defined, according to Desmond and Emyrbayer and what are some of its most important characteristics? Most importantly, how racism and racial domination work. Explain in some detail *institutional racism, interpersonal racism* and the importance of *symbolic violence* in the perseverance of racial domination. Provide some examples (Ian Haney Lopez’s article may be useful) to explain how racial domination works.

7. Racism is much broader than violence and epithets. It also comes in much quieter, everyday-ordinary and often very shuttle forms. Racism is often habitual, unintentional, commonplace, polite, implicit and well-meaning and not surprising is fraught with a number of misconceptions and misunderstandings. Identify and carefully explain some of the most popular fallacies surrounding racism and racial domination.

Gender and Inequality

8. The International Wages for Housework Campaign was a global social movement founded in 1972 in [Padua](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padua), Italy. The Campaign was formed to raise awareness of how [housework](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homemaking) and [childcare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childcare) are the base of all industrial work. The Campaign grew out of the International Feminist Collective in [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ital), of which Silvia Federici was a member. Explain in some detail the argument of the campaign as Federici develops it in her article “Wages Against Housework.”

9. Based on the documentary *Makers. Women Who Made America (1. Awakening, 2. Changing the World)* what were the issues that the movement brought up and how did the movement try to achieve its goals? Today, how far you think we have come and what remains to be done with regard to women’s right?

Stratification, Class and Inequality

10. Briefly describe the broad class differences in the United States and explain some of the causes for upward or downward social mobility. How does family background affect one’s social class in adulthood, for instance or how do you explain the wealth gap among various groups in the U.S. today?

11. Contrast the “culture of poverty” argument and structural explanations for poverty and the shrinking of the middle class the past three decades or so. What your position is on this?

Government, Political Power, and Social Movements

12. Democracy and politics go well beyond electoral politics and voting rights. Discuss the role of civil society and social movements in social change. In this context you may want to discuss the Civil Rights Movement, Women’s Right Movement, the Occupy Wall Street movement or Environmental Movements you might be more familiar with.

13. The past few years or so, in the United States and abroad, we follow the rise of various white extremist, nationalistic and other groups which adopt ideologies and practices one can compare to the fascist and Nazi movements of the 1930s. One can argue that our liberal democratic societies are manifesting early signs of fascism. Identify and briefly discuss these early signs of fascism.