Social Problems
Exam #1 Study Guide

This study guide is intended to provide you with a fairly comprehensive list of concepts that you should know for this exam. Keep in mind that your exams will be created from a larger pool of questions, so it is possible that you will not see a question over everything on this list.

Chapter 1:
History of social problems theory - social pathology, social disorganization, more modern approach (1940s-1970s), and the most recent approach (emphasis on the subjective nature of social problems)
Reliance on public opinion regarding social problems
Deviants and institutionalized deviance (including norm violators)
System-blame and person-blame approaches
Cultural deprivation
William Sumner’s ideas
Definition of deviant behavior (including the understanding of it)
Subjective and objective nature of social problems, is there a value-free approach?
The role of the distribution of power in understanding social problems
The sociological imagination - C. Wright Mills (private troubles and public issues)
Social Darwinism
Recidivism
Energy consumption in the US
World population growth (and other demographic issues)

Chapter 2:
Eitzen and Zinn’s assertion of the causes of social problems in the US
Karl Marx’s ideas on capitalism
Consequences of mega-mergers (i.e. the mass media, etc.)
Interlocking directorates
Consequences of corporations shifting operations from the US to other countries
Inequality gap in the US
Characteristic of a democracy
Financing political campaigns
The power elite (how are their interests served?)
Government subsidies to large corporations
US foreign policy
US tax policy
Transnational corporations and the world economy
Definition of an oligarchy and a plutocracy
Definition of power
Systemic imperatives
CEO to worker pay ratio
McCain-Feingold legislation
Chapter 3:
Modern demographic transition
International programs to help developing countries
World population issues
Global inequality
Characteristics of developing countries
Food and hunger statistics
The “new slavery”
Global corporations and the developing world
Legacy of colonialism
Arms sales to developing countries
Corporate dumping
What are some of the things that the U.S. and other wealthy nations can do to truly help the Developing World?
Definitions of fertility rate, absolute poverty, and life chances
HIV/AIDS
Microloans

Chapter 4:
The ecosystem and the forces that affect it
Sources of water and air pollution
Sources of deforestation of rainforests
Contributors to the greenhouse effect
Cultural values and environmental problems
Structural sources of environmental problems
Consequences of the pro-business approach to the environment
How to curtail the waste of energy
Obstacles to developing effective environmental policy
Environmental racism, justice, and classism
The biosphere
Planned obsolescence
Faith in technology
Overconsumption
Impact of location of cities
Energy consumption
Cornucopia view of nature
Food waste
SUV’s