Working Definitions

1. Facts—event, process, a piece of social action
2. Capitalism—a form of social economic organization, typified by the predominant role played by capital in the economic production process, and by the existence of extensive markets by which the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services (which include labor) is organized.
3. Enlightenment—a widespread intellectual, cultural/technological movement usually regarded as the origin of the modern era
4. Postmodernism—is distinguished by its denial of grand narrative as deployed since the Enlightenment to explain and justify the Western conception of human progress
5. Transnational—going beyond national boundaries or interests
6. Nation—is a group of humans who are assumed to share a common identity, religion, ideology, and culture. They are usually assumed to have a common origin in the sense of an ancestry, parentage or descent.
7. Nation-state—a sovereign state uninhabited by a relatively homogenous group who share a feeling of a common nationality
8. Ethnocentrism—the tendency to refer exclusively to one’s cultural values and practices, even if engaged with others who may not share those values. The tendency to describe and judge the systems and values and dominant practices of other cultures from the standpoint of one’s culture.
9. Empire—as a state that extends domination over areas and populations distinct culturally and ethically form the culture/ethnicity at he center of power. The term generally implies military power (i.e. US, economic, culturally, and political empire influence extends across the world.
10. World System Theory—an approach to social analysis and social change
11. Development—the economic aspect of social change
12. Underdevelopment—when rich or industrialized countries actively blocked or deformed the development of poor countries, by policies or intervention intended to protect power and superior position in trade
13. Diaspora—people who have settled far from their original homeland but who still share some measure of ethnic identity
14. Tradition—cultural continuity in social attitudes, customs, and institutions
15. Encounter—communications, interactions, networks, and exchanges that link individual societies to their neighbors and others in the large world