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Quiz #1

Week #1

Objective Questions (2pts each)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the means by which a society organizes itself and allocates authority refers to which of the following?
   1. Politics
   2. Government
   3. Democracy
   4. Pluralism
   5. Legitimacy
2. The process by which control of government is gained and exercised for the purpose of setting and achieving particular goals refers to which of the following.
   1. Politics
   2. Government
   3. Democracy
   4. Pluralism
   5. Legitimacy
3. T / F In a representative democracy, citizens govern directly.
4. T / F The United States is the world’s largest direct democracy.
5. Goods that cannot be provided by the market or at a low cost are known as \_\_\_\_\_
   1. public goods
   2. common goods
   3. private goods
   4. toll goods
   5. state goods

Short Answer (10pts)

**Contrast** elite theory of government with pluralist theory. **Identify** which of the two you feel best describes American democracy and briefly **explain** why.

Learning objectives addressed:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government. |
| 2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy. |

Quiz #2

Week #2

Objective Questions (2pts each)

1. T / F Political socialization refers to the biological determination of a person’s political beliefs.
2. T / F Research has shown family has little to no influence over the informal development of a person’s political beliefs.
3. Which of the following ideologies focuses on maximum individual freedom in society?
   1. Modern liberalism
   2. Traditional conservatism
   3. Modern conservatism
   4. Classical liberalism
   5. Socialism
4. Which of the following ideologies prefers order provided by an elected government that removes itself from the economy?
   1. Modern liberalism
   2. Traditional conservatism
   3. Modern conservatism
   4. Classical liberalism
   5. Socialism
5. T / F In a democracy, the media is expected to serve as watchdogs?

Short Answer (10pts)

In regards to media coverage of politics, **define** what is meant by framing and priming. **Explain** how these two concepts impact the public’s understanding of political issues.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.
2. Assess the effects of media and public opinion on the political process.

Reflection Paper #1

Week #3

**Topic:**First, briefly **discuss** how politics personally impacts your life? You might think politics does not impact your life, but ask yourself if there are any issues you care about and how those issues relate to the concepts of government and politics. Next, briefly **discuss** your involvement in politics. Are you a regular participant in the political process? Include a brief **explanation** ofwhy it is important to participate, or why you feel it is not important. Lastly, **evaluate** the role of agents of political socialization in your life. In respect to how political beliefs or positions on certain issues, what agents had the biggest impact?

1. The goal of this assignment is for students to integrate main ideas presented in class with their personal thinking. This is a chance for students to add personal thoughts to what they are learning.
2. Students should ask, before writing their reflection, how their understanding of the topic (in relation to course material and discussions) has changed or reinforced existing thoughts or practices.
3. Ask yourself the following:
   1. What did we learn?
   2. What stood out to me?
   3. Did I learn anything new?
   4. How have our readings and discussions affected my thoughts on the topic?
   5. Has anything changed or reinforced my thoughts (or practices) in regards to the topic?
4. Do the following:
   1. Clear your mind and your desk.
   2. Write for 15-20 minutes.
   3. This is not a brain dump.
      1. Coherently structure your paper: brief introduction, body, and conclusion.
      2. In the introduction, identify what you will write about.
      3. Express opinions, feelings, beliefs, and attitudes in the body. This is where your personal reflection comes into play.
      4. Summarize in the conclusion, and discuss how things will change (or no change) for you going forward.
5. **Be sure to refer to our class materials. This is open book and notes but you still need to prepare.**

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

6. Assess the effects of media and public opinion on the political process.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Quiz #3

Week #4

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. T / F In the 2012 presidential election, candidates from all parties raised over $1.3 billion dollars.
2. T / F In the 2014 Mid-Term elections, PACs raised over $1.7 billion dollars.
3. This Supreme Court decision led to the removal of spending limits on corporations in politics and campaigns.
   1. Roe v. Wade
   2. McConnell v. Federal Election Commission
   3. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission
   4. Marbury v. Madison
   5. Buckley v. Valeo
4. A type of primary where only members of a political part may vote.
   1. Closed
   2. Open
   3. Blanket
   4. Top-two
   5. Runoff
5. T / F Incumbents only win reelection 50% of the time.

Short Answer (10pts)

**Evaluate** the tradeoffs associated with direct and representative democracy. While direct democracy appears to be an ideal form of democracy, **identify** the dangers associated with the practice of direct democracy? Briefly **discuss** if you feel the practice of representative is an adequate solution to the dangers of direct democracy.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

Exam #1 Essay (25pts)

Week #5

First, **define** what it means for a country to have a two-party system like the U.S. Does the U.S. only have two political parties? If not, why do we refer to the U.S. as a two-party system? Next, **explain** why the U.S. has a two-party system. Why, after all these years of complaints, does a two-party system in the U.S. persist? Pay special attention to our plurality voting system for members of Congress as well as the electoral college scheme used to select the president. Incorporate how these institutions reinforce our two-party system. Lastly, within the context of what you expect from the practice of democracy, **construct** an argument in favor of, or against, our two-party system. Are you satisfied with two major political parties, or would you like more effective parties? Be sure to **explain** what changes would have to be made to see more parties capable of winning win seats in Congress or winning the presidency.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Quiz #4

Week #6

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. A person that represents an interest group before government.
   1. Lobbyist
   2. Solicitor
   3. Whip
   4. Justice
   5. Speaker
2. T / F According to Madison in *Federalist #10*, to deal with factions it is best to remove the causes of factions.
3. What type of incentives appeal to someone’s concern about a cause?
   1. Solidary incentives
   2. Purposive incentives
   3. Material incentives
   4. Negative incentives
   5. None of the above
4. T / F In *Federalist #10*, Madison makes the case for a large direct democracy.
5. Revolving door laws are designed to do which of the following?
   1. Prevent lawmakers from utilizing their legislative relationships by becoming lobbyists immediately after leaving office.
   2. Help lawmakers find work after they leave office.
   3. Resist lobbyists from running for public office.
   4. Help interest groups form coalitions with bureaucrats.
   5. All of the above.

Short Answer (10pts)

**Define** the concept interest group. Next, **assess** the American interest group system. Do you feel it is representative of a majority of Americans, or elite driven? **Explain** your answer within the context of what you expect from a representative democracy.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

8. Explain the impacts of social movements on American government.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

Quiz #5

Week #7

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. Which of the following formal powers does Article II confer upon the president?
   1. The power of Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.
   2. The power to call special sessions of Congress.
   3. The power to veto legislation.
   4. The power to declare war.
   5. A, B, and C are all correct.
2. T / F According to Hamilton in *Federalist #68*, the president should be selected by the members of Congress.
3. T / F According to Hamilton in *Federalist #68*, the direct election of a president would violate the spirit of separation of powers.
4. To ensure against a tyrannical president, the framers of the Constitution included a process for removing the president known as which of the following?
   1. Vote of no confidence
   2. Censure
   3. Impoundment
   4. Recess appointment
   5. Impeachment
5. In the absence of congressional actions, president may choose \_\_\_\_\_\_ to achieve policy goals.
   1. signing statements
   2. executive orders
   3. trial balloons
   4. line-item veto
   5. executive agreement

Short Answer (10pts)

**Describe** how presidents have used their position to increase the power of their office. **Assess** the extent to which you feel the presidency remains consistent with the framer’s intentions for the office. **Explain** your answer.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

Quiz #6

Week #8

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. Article I Section 8 of the Constitution is home to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. the enumerated powers
   2. the supremacy clause
   3. the equal protection clause
   4. the due Process clause
   5. judicial review
2. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the manipulation of congressional districts for partisan purposes.
   1. Reapportionment
   2. Malapportionment
   3. Gerrymandering
   4. Descriptive representation
   5. None of the above
3. The core committees of Congress are known as which of the following?
   1. Standing committees
   2. Joint committees
   3. Select committees
   4. Conference committees
   5. Exploratory committees
4. T / F Legislation that raises revenue must originate in the Senate.
5. T / F In the hearing phase of the legislative process, public comment is not allowed.

Short Answer (10pts)

**Articulate** the difference between the delegate model of representation and the trustee model. **Identify** which model you feel best captures the framer’s vision for representation.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

Reflection Paper #2

Week #9

**Topic:**First, briefly **discuss** the constitutional role of the judiciary in American politics. Next, briefly **describe** how the judiciary has shaped American politics throughout history. Lastly, **evaluate** the role of the judiciary in American politics and your life. Do you feel the judiciary is undemocratic? Does the judiciary impact your life as much as the legislative branch? **Explain** your answer.

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2. Students should ask, before writing their reflection, how their understanding of the topic (in relation to course material and discussions) has changed or reinforced existing thoughts or practices.
3. Ask yourself the following:
   1. What did we learn?
   2. What stood out to me?
   3. Did I learn anything new?
   4. How have our readings and discussions affected my thoughts on the topic?
   5. Has anything changed or reinforced my thoughts (or practices) in regards to the topic?
4. Do the following:
   1. Clear your mind and your desk.
   2. Write for 15-20 minutes.
   3. This is not a brain dump.
      1. Coherently structure your paper: brief introduction, body, and conclusion.
      2. In the introduction, identify what you will write about.
      3. Express opinions, feelings, beliefs, and attitudes in the body. This is where your personal reflection comes into play.
      4. Summarize in the conclusion, and discuss how things will change (or no change) for you going forward.
5. **Be sure to refer to our class materials. This is open book and notes but you still need to prepare.**

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Exam #2 Essay (25pts)

Week #10

It has been said the Constitution was a product of compromise. Three major compromises included the Connecticut Comprise, the 3/5Compromise, and the Bill of Rights. First, **explain** the Connecticut Compromise. What did it achieve and what important issue did it settle? Next, **explain** the 3/5 Compromise. What did the 3/5 Compromise do, did it undermine the emphasis placed on natural rights at the time of the founding, and why was it made? Finally, **Identify** the arguments made by those in favor of excluding a statement of rights. **Explain** whether or not you feel the Bill of Rights was a necessary addition to the Constitution? Overall, if the origins of Constitution involved significant compromises to be completed, what lessons does that teach us for the current state of American politics? **Explain** your answer.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Quiz #7

Week #11

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. T / F In *Federalist #46*, Madison argues the federal government will eventually usurp the states and render state power meaningless.
2. T / F According to Article I of the Constitution, states can nullify federal laws.
3. The process by which centralized power is given up to regional bodies is which of the following?
   1. Federalism
   2. New federalism
   3. Devolution
   4. Unfunded mandates
   5. Nullification
4. Which clause of the Constitution requires states to accept the court decisions, public acts, and contracts of other states?
   1. Privileges and immunities clause
   2. Full faith and credit clause
   3. Elastic clause
   4. Free exercise clause
   5. Supremacy clause
5. T / F The Dred Scot decision was a victory for the power of the federal government to compel states and territories to take action.

Short Answer (10pts):

**Identify** the difference between dual and cooperative federalism. Why is one called layer cake federalism and the other marble cake? **Explain** which model of federalism you feel best explains current state versus federal relations.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

5. Compare and contrast the differences and tensions between federalism and anti-federalism.

Quiz #8

Week #12

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. An example of a right explicitly protected by the Constitution as drafted at the Constitutional Convention is the\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. right to free speech
   2. right to keep and bear arms.
   3. right of writ to habeas corpus
   4. right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment
   5. None of the above.
2. T / F The 14th Amendment makes states responsible to the Constitution.
3. The Supreme Court case *Kelo v. New Hampshire* was controversial because it\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   1. Allowed greater use of the power of eminent domain
   2. Regulated popular ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft
   3. Limited the application of the death penalty
   4. Made it harder for police to use evidence obtained in a warrant
   5. Restricted the right of citizens to gather on federal lands for the purpose of protest.
4. T / F The Constitution gives every citizen the explicit right to privacy.
5. Which of the following is not part of the 1st Amendment?
   1. The right to keep and bear arms.
   2. The right to peacefully assemble.
   3. The right to free speech.
   4. The right to practice your religion freely.
   5. The right to not be compelled to practice religion by the government.

Short Answer (10pts)

**Identify** what rights you feel the government does a good job protecting. **Identify** rights you feel the government could better protect, and **explain** why.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

5. Compare and contrast the differences and tensions between federalism and anti-federalism.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

Reaction Paper #3

Week #13

**Topic:**First, briefly **discuss** the origins of the civil rights movement in the U.S. Next, **briefly** discuss the difference between civil liberties and civil rights. Next, **describe** how the federal government has identified and addressed discrimination and inequality in America. Lastly, **evaluate** the state of civil rights in America today. Do you see discrimination and inequality in your life or community? If so, what is being done to resolve these issues, and how can it be done better? **Explain** your answer.

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4. Do the following:
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   3. This is not a brain dump.
      1. Coherently structure your paper: brief introduction, body, and conclusion.
      2. In the introduction, identify what you will write about.
      3. Express opinions, feelings, beliefs, and attitudes in the body. This is where your personal reflection comes into play.
      4. Summarize in the conclusion, and discuss how things will change (or no change) for you going forward.
5. **Be sure to refer to our class materials. This is open book and notes but you still need to prepare.**

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

8. Explain the impacts of social movements on American government.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Quiz #9

Week #14

Objective Questions (2pts Each)

1. T / F The bureaucracy is democratically accountable to the people.
2. T / F Beginning in the late 19th Century, reform efforts included making merit-based selection with the bureaucracy a priority.
3. T / F There were more cabinet positions in Washington’s administration than now.
4. Which of the following models of bureaucracy best accounts for the way bureaucracies tend to push Congress for more funding each year?
   1. Weberian model
   2. Acquisitive model
   3. Monopolistic model
   4. Ideal model
   5. Audience model
5. Two recent periods of bureaucratic expansion included the
   1. 1930s and 1960s
   2. 1920s and 1980s
   3. 1910s and 1990s
   4. 1930s and 1950s

Short Answer (10pts)

Briefly **explain** the advantages and disadvantages of a merit-based bureaucratic system.

Learning objectives addressed:

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

Exam #3 Essay

Week #15

Within the Constitution we find guarantees to certain civil liberties and rights. First, **explain** the difference between civil liberties and civil rights. Be sure to incorporate examples. The 14th Amendment bas been very important to the protection of our civil liberties and rights. **Explain** the importance of the 14th Amendment and what it guarantees. Over time, the judicial branch has been very important to shaping civil liberties and rights. In your response, **identify** two Supreme Court cases discussed in class, one associated with civil liberties and another with civil rights, and **explain** how those decisions impacted civil liberties and rights in American politics today.

*Research Paper Instructions and Guidelines*

POS 102

Fall 2017

In this class you will be submitting a page research paper. This paper should be 4-5 double-spaced pages. The paper has a value of 110 points, with 10 points coming early in the semester with the submission of a thesis statement. The thesis statement is a demonstration of what you intend to research. The remaining 100 points is for the final draft of the paper due near the end of the semester.

I have limited you to eight broad topic areas. You are free to shape one of these topic areas to suit your specific interests, and you are free to write an analytical paper, or an argumentative or persuasive paper. If you have an idea for a paper that is not represented below, please contact me so we can discuss your idea. Any paper unrelated to a topic area listed below must be approved by the instructor in advance. As mentioned above, these topics are broad. It will be up to you to shape these topics with a research question and thesis statement. Below are the topic areas:

Campaign Finance

Health Care

Drug Legalization

Electoral College

War Powers

Two-Party System

Electoral College

Media

Course Learning Objectives

It is important that you use course learning objectives as a guide when writing your paper. These objectives are located on the syllabus. They are repeated here for your convenience.

1. Explain essential concepts in political science and American government.

2. Articulate the ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.

3. Describe the Constitution and its historical context.

4. Summarize the essential components of the Constitution.

5. Compare and contrast the differences and tensions between federalism and anti-federalism.

6. Assess the effects of media and public opinion on the political process.

7. Articulate the role of the U.S. government in fostering and affecting international relations.

8. Explain the impacts of social movements on American government.

9. Identify the relationship between American government and public policy outputs.

10. Utilize writing to communicate an understanding, application, analysis, or evaluation of material covered in class.

Not all objectives will be relevant to your paper, but each paper must address objective #1. In short, each paper must be grounded in ideas and concepts addressed in class. From there simply use objectives that are relevant to the content of your paper as a guide. For example, if you are writing that current campaign finance practices distort political equality, you are touching on objective #2 and the “ideal of democracy versus the practices of democracy.” If you are writing about the Electoral College, objectives #3 and #4 will be relevant to your paper. You will want to address the “historical context” of the Electoral College as well as summarize its place in the Constitution. If you are writing about drug legalization, especially the current wave of marijuana legalization, you will likely be addressing state versus federal powers, and therefore be touching on the Constitution and the history of federalist and anti-federalist rhetoric. If you have additional questions as to how your paper relates, I will be happy to work with you.

Thesis Statement (10 points)

The first component of the paper is submitting a thesis statement. What is a thesis statement? A thesis statement tells your reader the central idea of your paper. Your thesis statement should be no more than two sentences, and should convey an informed response to your general research question. For example, maybe your research question centers on media bias in the United States. In short, you are asking if there is a pervasive media bias in American political journalism. For a thesis statement, you might write: *the media bias in American politics is driven by a negativity bias more than an ideological bias.* You then set out to research this statement, which means your research and paper focuses on the sources of media bias in American political journalism.

Final Draft

Additional information on types of papers is available on Blackboard. Also available on Blackboard is additional information on what is expected in the final draft.

Basic Citation Requirements

Overall, you are required to have minimum of seven sources. You are allowed only two Internet only sources. Internet only sources are defined as information that exists only on the Internet. The library and journal databases (found through the library website) are your friend. You want to make sure your sources are credible or scholarly in nature. For more information on gathering sources, refer to the additional handout on Blackboard. If you plan to have more than two Internet only sources, you will need to plan on having more than seven sources.

You are free to use either MLA or APA style citations for this paper. Please see the attached pages for proper formatting. It is a must that you cite all material within your paper and provide a works cited page or bibliography at the end of the paper. Please visit the following links ([MLA](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/) and [APA](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/)) or <https://owl.excelcior.edu/>. I will also be happy to work with you one-on-one in regards to proper citation.