

Political Science 101
Spring 2009
Midterm Examination Review Sheet

When: Tuesday May 5, in class; you will have the whole period. Most students will finish in 60-75 minutes.

Format: 50 multiple choice questions, 10 fill-in-the-blank questions, 5 matching sections, and 5 short answer questions (approximately one blue book page each)

Material: Covers Ch. 1-3, 5-9 and 11 in Coleman and lectures through May 1. About one-third of questions will be material covered in the book only; about one-third will be material covered in both the book and lecture, and the remaining questions will be material from lecture only.

Questions based on group activities will be based only on general themes: you will not be asked about specific content from other groups' presentations.

Review session: There will be a review session the evening before the midterm, time and place TBA. You should have done the majority of your studying before the review session, including having gone through this review sheet, and you should come with specific questions.

General advice about content:

The Constitution: You do not need to learn the entire text; only the clauses and sections highlighted in Coleman or in lecture will be on the exam. I expect you to be thoroughly familiar with the content of the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment; for the other Amendments, you should be familiar with their existence and their historical context, but you need memorize the numbers and dates.

Court cases: I expect you to be able to match the most prominent court cases discussed in Coleman and lecture with their subject matter and historical importance. (Example: *Brown v. Board of Education (1954)* was the case that ended segregation.) For other cases, you do not need to memorize names, dates and specific standards put forward by the Court (i.e. "the Lemon test"), but you should be able to describe the current status of the law in key areas such as free speech, religious freedom, free press, etc.

Demographic, election and participation numbers: There are only a few questions that ask about numbers, and they will never be real nitpicky or year-specific. For example, I might ask you what percentage of African Americans tend to vote Democratic and then give you the following answer choices: 45%, 60%, 75%, 90%. I would not, however, ask you what percentage of African Americans voted for Bush in 2004 and then give you these choices: 9%, 11%, 13%, 15%.

Political geography: You are expected to have an understanding of which states tend to vote for which party, which states are swing states, and approximately how many electoral college votes each state has. You do not need to learn the entire primary schedule, but you should be familiar with the more prominent primaries.

Examples of short-answer questions from prior exams:

1. What is patronage? How does it relate to party politics, and how has its influence changed over time?
2. What is the difference between majoritarianism and consensualism? Name one feature of the American political system that is more consistent with the former, and one feature that is more consistent with the latter.
3. Explain the difference between the memory-based model and the on-line model.
4. What is social capital, and why is it allegedly important to the study of American politics?

Important terms: The following is a list of terms and concepts that you should be prepared to define and discuss the meaning and relevance of. Terms not listed here may still be asked about multiple choice questions, but will not be in the fill-in-the-blanks or short answer sections.

Chapter 1

- Correlation/causation
- Public good

- Direct/representative democracy
- Empirical/normative analysis

Chapter 2

- Plurality rule
- Trustee/delegate views of representation
- The American Creed

- Ideology
- Political culture
- One person, one vote

Chapter 3

- Majoritarianism/majority rule
- Separation of powers
- Judicial review

- Consensualism
- Checks and balances
- Bicameralism

Chapter 5

- (Selective) incorporation
- Establishment/free exercise clauses

- Civil liberties/civil rights
- Due process/substantive due process

Chapter 6

- Preclearance
- De facto/de jure segregation

- Majority-minority districting
- Social desirability effect

Chapter 7

- Opinion leaders
- Survey experiment

- Random/representative sampling
- Cross-section/panel/trend study

Chapter 8

- Social capital
- Political efficacy
- Expressive and instrumental behavior

- The civic voluntarism model
- Field experiment

Chapter 9

- Prospective/retrospective voting
- Sincere and strategic voting
- Ticket-splitting and balancing

- The gender gap
- Sociotropic and pocketbook voting
- On-line and memory-based models

Chapter 11

- Realignment/dealignment
- Party organizational strength
- Responsible party model

- Party machine/patronage
- Unified/divided government
- Australian ballot