POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

**ELECTORAL AND CAMPAIGN REFORM**

Semiatin chapter 14 (Simpson), Wayne chapter 10

Wednesday, 12-12-12 ☺

**Wayne 10 terms**: criticisms and positive aspects of the present electoral process (334-5); why the issue of crossover voting is critical to parties; regional primaries, national primary; negative aspects of front loading, reasons why front loading continues to occur; ways the presidential election public funding system could be saved; pros and cons of free air time for candidate ads; Commission on Federal Election Reform recommendations; pros and cons of making election day a holiday; Electoral College reform ideas: automatic plan, proportional plan, district plan, direct election plan, interstate compact to enact direct election plan without changing Constitution

14.1 Try the experiment on page 234 at the top. Organize your thoughts on an issue of your choice, then you can volunteer to speak for 7 seconds without notes. The best “sound bites” will win a prize.

14.2 This chapter reviews the main themes of the book. Which changes in campaigning are the most significant ones, and why?

10.1 We will break down into small groups. Each group will get **one or two** of these question sets to discuss – summarize Wayne’s points, add your own ideas, and reach a conclusion about the question; then share all of this with the class**.**

**Modifying party rules for nomination process** (335-342)

 1 Who should participate in the caucuses and primaries?

 2 How should the [primary/caucus] votes be allocated?

 3 Should the nomination process be shortened?

 4 Can front-loading be prevented?

 5 Should regional primaries be instituted?

 6 Should a national primary be held?

**Campaign finance** (342-345)

 7 Can campaign contributions and expenditures be effectively limited?

 8 Can public funding [for presidential elections] be saved?

**Public awareness and knowledge** (345-348)

9 Should candidates receive free TV air time?

 10 Is campaign news coverage satisfactory?

 11 Does early exit poll reporting affect voting decisions and electoral outcomes?

12 Should election night reporting be changed?

**Enhancing the democratic character of presidential elections** (348-361)

 13 Is nonvoting a problem in U.S. elections?

 14 How can more citizens be encouraged to vote?

 15 Should Electoral College votes be proportionately allocated (based on popular vote)?

 16 Should EC votes be determined by winning congressional districts?

 17 Should the president be elected by direct popular vote (abolish the EC), either by amending Constitution or using the “interstate compact” approach (p. 361)?

 18 Does Table 10.1 (356-7) give evidence supporting any particular EC reform idea?

 19 Does Table 10.2 (360) give evidence supporting any particular EC reform idea?

X. Add your own question here!

**Friday: completion of today’s discussion (if necessary), review for final exam, course evaluation**

**The final exam is WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, Mattson 102**