POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

# THE FUTURE OF CAMPAIGN PRESS COVERAGE &

# CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Semiatin chapters 9 (Graf and Mayer) and 10 (Francia, Joe, and Wilcox)

Wednesday, December 5

9.1/10.1 What topics or points in each chapter did you find most interesting or compelling, and why?

9.2 From the point of view of the public – likely voters – evaluate what has been **lost** and what has been **gained** in the transformation of journalism from the professionals-only model of the past to the new “citizen journalists” model with declining numbers of professional journalists. Overall, does what has been gained outweigh what has been lost, or vice versa?

9.3 Citizens/voters today can more easily visit only those political news sources (TV and/or online) that agree with their preexisting point of view. Is this a problem? If so, what exactly is the problem?

10.2 Review the reform proposals in this chapter (pp. 166-172). Do any of them have merit (and if so, what are the merits)? What are the likely effects of adopting any of these proposals at the federal level?

10.3 Should more **states** adopt public financing of campaigns? Discuss the pros and cons of public financing of campaigns, from the point of view of a) candidates, b) political parties, and c) voters.

X. Add your question here….

**Friday: chapters 12 (MacManus on women and campaigns) and 13 (Stokes-Brown on minority candidates)**