POL 215, POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

**FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE**

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**: The exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 19, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm in Mattson 102 (our usual classroom)**. Blue books will be provided. Cheating in any form will result in a grade of 0 for anyone involved. Please write legibly in pen (not red).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Anyone who requires a specific accommodation for taking this exam should talk to me about this as soon as possible.

**IS THE FINAL COMPREHENSIVE? NO.** The final exam will cover only material since the second exam, plus the presidential election summaries. Of course, you can include material from earlier in the course if it helps to answer any question on this exam.

**READINGS COVERED**: material from **November 14 through December 14, plus election handouts from October**:

* Hershey chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
* Gibson article [“Nastier, Noisier, Costlier – and Better”](https://homepages.gac.edu/~cgilbert/p215/judicialelect.pdf)
* Wayne chapter 10
* Presidential election summaries
* Semiatin, all chapters – **Semiatin book will ONLY be used for the essay (Part II)**

**SCORING**

Part I - 11 multiple choice questions, 2 points each = 22 points

Part II - 6 answers (choice of 10), 8 points each = 48 points

Part III - 1 essay (choice of 3) = 30 points

**TOTAL = 100 points**

**PARTS I AND II**: The multiple choice and paragraph identification sections will cover concepts and terms listed below. No other concepts/terms besides those on the list below will be covered in the first two sections of the exam. **THE SEMIATIN BOOK IS NOT INCLUDED IN PARTS I AND II.**

Part I is multiple choice - choose wisely (there is only one right answer for each).

In Part II, the paragraph ID section, you should **a) define or explain the concept/term, and b) discuss its significance for political parties and elections**. Answers will be graded at roughly 6 points for the definition/explanation and roughly 2 points for significance. Choose **only 6 items to answer**; if you answer more than 6, only the first 6 will be graded.

**Hershey chapter 13 terms**

party caucuses/conferences in Congress

differences in leadership positions between House, Senate

why House members revolted against Speaker Joe Cannon, results of the revolt

seniority rule

policy leadership in the House, 1970s and 1980s

Newt Gingrich, Gingrich Revolution

new powers of Speaker and new rules implemented by new Republican majority

why Gingrich tumbled from power

changes in House rules under Tom DeLay

why gridlock occurred under Democrats/Nancy Pelosi and more openness under Republicans/John Boehner

conditional party government

why party leadership is harder to carry out in the U.S. Senate

uses of party caucuses in state legislatures

incentives and punishments available to congressional party leaders

weaknesses of party penalties

cartel theory and agenda control

party vote/voting, party unity scores/party support

why party polarization has reached an all-time high in recent years

conservative coalition

conditions under which parties are most unified

specific pressures on legislators from marginal districts

Blue Dog Coalition, Tuesday Group

factors that affect strength of legislative parties: party polarization and cohesion, greater interparty competition, no competing centers of power, needed resources, legislative professionalism, styles of individual leaders

**Hershey chapter 14 terms**

different ways that the President can act as party leader, campaigner-in-chief

coattails, why coattail effects declined from end of World War II through 1980s

why the president’s party usually loses congressional seats in midterm elections

why the midterm loss pattern failed to hold in 1998, 2002

divided government, implications for the president

bureaucratic constituencies, how these affect executive ability to influence bureaucratic agencies and departments

political outlooks among federal bureaucrats, changes over time

evidence of judicial voting along party lines, reasons for partisan behavior on the courts

party considerations in appointing federal judges and justices

merit appointment of state judges; retention election

**Gibson article for November 16 “Nastier, Noisier, Costlier – and Better”**

why state judicial elections have become more politicized (state courts more important, more interest group involvement, Supreme Court decision in *Republican Party of Minnesota v. White*)

arguments that increased politicization of judicial elections threatens legitimacy of courts, and counterarguments

policy making by judges, why this is the most appropriate way to view the role of judges

public attitudes toward judicial elections and candidates

**Hershey chapter 15 terms**

responsible parties/party government

arguments for and against party government; divided government

how Republicans were a “temporarily responsible party” early in the Gingrich era

ideological party

examples of issues where the Democratic, Republican platforms offer clear choices

internal divisions within each major party

conditions in which party government in the U.S. is most likely to occur

**Hershey chapter 16 terms**

### the nature of the electorate

### political institutions and rules that influence parties

### social/societal forces that influence parties

### how party decline in 1960s and 1970s affects parties in the electorate, party organizations, parties in government

### why there was a rise in more cohesive parties in government starting in the 1980s and extending through today

### how parties’ intermediary roles are changing

### Wayne chapter 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

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HANDOUTS – in general, you should know who WON each of these elections, in addition to the specific terms listed here**

**1800 election handout terms**

Political uncertainties surrounding the 1800 election

House of Representatives’ role in deciding 1800 election

Long-term implications of 1800 election

**1824 election handout terms**

The Era of Good Feelings

Henry Clay

John Quincy Adams (also covered in 1828 handout)

Andrew Jackson (also covered in 1828 handout)

The “corrupt bargain” and how it decided the 1824 election

“firsts” in 1824 election

**1828 election handout terms**

John Quincy Adams (also covered in 1824 handout)

Andrew Jackson (also covered in 1824 handout)

Impact of 1828 election results

**1860 election handout terms**

Abraham Lincoln

John C. Breckenridge

John Bell, Constitutional Union Party

Why the Democratic Party vote was split in the 1860 election

Immediate impact of 1860 election results

**1876 election handout terms**

Context of 1876 election

Rutherford B. Hayes

Samuel Tilden

Platform differences in the 1876 election

How the 1876 election was decided

Long-term impact of 1876 election

**1896 election handout terms**

Fiscal policy issues that framed the context of the 1896 election

Splits within Republican and Democratic parties in 1896 nomination races

William Jennings Bryan

Electoral College distribution in 1896 election

**1912 election handout terms**

Woodrow Wilson

Theodore Roosevelt, Progressive (Bull Moose) Party

Eugene Debs, Socialist Party

Why the Republican Party split during the 1912 party convention

New Nationalism, New Freedom, and key issues in 1912 campaign

Effects of 1912 election

**1932 election handout terms**

Key events prior to 1932 election

Franklin Roosevelt

Herbert Hoover

Impact of 1932 election

**1948 election handout terms**

Context of 1948 election

Harry S. Truman

Thomas E. Dewey

Strom Thurmond, States’ Rights Party

Henry Wallace, Progressive Party

Why Truman’s victory in 1948 election was surprising

Why Truman won the 1948 election

Impact of 1948 election

**1952 election handout terms**

The set-up to 1952 election

1952 Democratic Convention

1952 Republican Convention

Key appeals of Stevenson and Eisenhower in 1952 election

Shifts in U.S. politics (Republican gains) revealed by 1952 election results

**1960 election handout terms**

John F. Kennedy

Richard Nixon (also covered in 1968 handout)

Unique aspects of 1960 election (under “Notable Issues and Facts” and “Key Information”)

Impact of debates on 1960 election

Impacts of 1960 election

**1968 election handout terms**

Richard Nixon (also covered in 1960 handout)

Hubert Humphrey

George Wallace, American Independent Party

Wallace’s impact on 1968 election results

Why 1968 election is seen as a realigning election

Changes in Electoral College support for Democratic Party in 1968 election

**1980 election handout terms**

Context of 1980 election

Ronald Reagan

Jimmy Carter

John Anderson

“Are you better off than you were four years ago?”

Long term implications of 1980 election

**1992 election handout terms**

Context of 1992 election

Bill Clinton (also covered in 1996 handout)

George H.W. Bush

Ross Perot

Implications of 1992 election

**1996 election handout terms**

US history pre-1996 election

Bill Clinton (also covered in 1992 handout)

Bob Dole

Ross Perot (also covered in 1992 handout)

Impacts of 1996 election

**PART III (ESSAY)**

You will write one essay, from a selection of three questions. **ALL ESSAY THEMES AND QUESTIONS WILL FOCUS ON SEMIATIN’S BOOK.** The questions will be based on the themes given below, and will be more specifically focused than these themes. My ideas for framing the specific essay questions also arise from class discussion question handouts and discussions. Focusing your studying on the handouts and themes discussed in class will assist you in answering the essay question.

Essay answers should be roughly 4-5 paragraphs (about 2 blue book pages). Writing quality is not an important factor, but these factors are important:

- correct information (be accurate, know your facts)

- relevant information (answer the question asked, not some variation of your choosing)

- evidence or examples to support your answer (show what you’ve learned and how it pertains)

- a logical structure (have a theme or thesis, organize the essay coherently)

### THEMES FOR ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. Be prepared to discuss, and especially to **compare**, major innovations and trends in the following areas of campaigns: campaign finance, paid media, new/social media, polling, voter mobilization, campaign press coverage, redistricting. Essays based on this theme will almost certainly specify the areas to be discussed/compared.

2. Consider how the innovations and trends in campaigns are affecting the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, and interest groups. Essays based on this theme, like theme #1, are likely to be comparative.

3. Consider how women candidates and minority candidates are affected by the major innovations and trends in campaigns. This too will probably be a comparative essay, but it may compare women to minority candidates **or** focus on one of these two groups and comparing the past to the present/future.