

**POLS 20100 American Politics**  
**Exam II Review Sheet**  
**Fall 2010**

The following is a general list of topics, concepts, and issues with which you should be familiar in preparation for the second exam. This is a general outline *only*. Remember, you are responsible for the readings, class lecture, and discussion. Readings covered in this exam: *We the People* (textbook), Chapters 7-11, and *Debating* (reader), Chapters 4, 9, 10, 11, and 16. The form of the exam is 20 multiple choice questions, 10 short answers (fill in the blank), and 2 short essay questions (from a choice of 3).

Media

- Media industry and government\*
- News coverage\*
- Media power\*
- Historic development
- Effect on the political process
- Effect on citizen views

Political participation and voting\*

- Forms of political participation\*
- Who participates and how?\*
- Explaining political participation\*
- Rational Voter Calculus
  - $V = P(B) - C + D$
- Does it matter who votes?

American political parties

- What are political parties?\*
- The Two-Party System in America\*
- Why only two? Esp. Duverger's Law
- Party organization\*
- Parties and the electorate\*
- Weakening connection b/w voters & parties: Decline in party ID (leaners)
- Parties and elections\*
- Parties and government\*
- Responsible party system:
  - Why partisans might NOT work together
  - Why partisans might work together

Campaigns and Elections

- Elections in America\*
- Election campaigns\*
- Presidential elections\*
- How voters decide\*
- Models of vote choice
  - Columbia: sociological
  - Michigan: psychological
  - Rochester: economic
- Money and politics\*

Interest groups / organized interests

- Definition, characteristics
- The character of interest groups\*
- The proliferation of groups\*
- Membership
  - Collective goods & free riders
  - Solutions: size & selective benefits
- Strategies: The quest for political power\*