

**POLS 20100 American Politics
Exam I 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 first 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 1-6, and *Debating Democracy* (reader), Chapters 1-3, and 6-8. The form of the exam is 20 multiple choice questions, 10 short answers (fill in the blank), and 2 essay questions (from a choice of 3).

American Political Culture

- Attitudes toward government*
- Citizenship*
- Government: purpose, forms, limits, access, and influence*

Core values

- Individualism
- Equality
- Liberty
- Civic duty
- Democracy*
- Role of gov't in resolving tensions*

The Founding

- First Founding*
- Declaration of Independence
- Second Founding*
- Articles of Confederation
- Constitutional Convention*
- The Constitution: provisions, branches, amendments, powers, ratification*
- Fight for Ratification*
- Federalists v. Anti-Federalists*
- Charles Beard's critique

Federalism

- Framework*
- Advantages / disadvantages
- Historical development / changing federal framework*

Civil Liberties*

- Brief history*
- Freedom of Religion*
- Freedom of Speech and the Press*
- The Right to Bear Arms*
- Rights of the Accused*
- Right to Privacy (Patriot Act)*

Civil Rights

- Historic struggle*
- Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
 - Rational basis
- Brown. v. Board of Education* (1954)
 - Suspect class, strict scrutiny, compelling government interest
- Civil rights since *Brown**
- Universalization of civil rights*
- Sex discrimination
- Affirmative Action*
- Can the Courts bring about social change?

Public opinion

- Political values*
- How we form political opinions*
 - Zaller's explanation
- Measuring public opinion*
- Survey research
 - Types of polls
 - Sampling
 - Wording and question-ordering
 - Problem of non-attitudes