

POLS 20100 American Politics
FINAL REVIEW SHEET
Fall 2010

The following is a general list of topics, concepts, and issues that you should be familiar with 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 12-15, and *Debating Democracy* (reader), Chapters 5, 12-15, and 17. 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).

Campaign finance

Legislation: FECA 1974, BCRA 2002
Loopholes: bundling, independent expenditures, soft money, 527 groups, nonprofit corporations (*Citizens United v. FEC*)
Does money matter?

Congressional elections: apportionment, redistricting, gerrymandering

Population disparity
Baker v. Carr (1962)
Wesberry v. Sanders (1964)
Race / voter dilution
1982 Voting Rights Act
Thornburg v. Gingles (1986)
Shaw v. Reno (1993)

Congress*

Representing the American people
Organization of Congress
Rules of lawmaking
How Congress decides
Other congressional powers

How a bill becomes a law

Process
Differences between House and Senate

Members of Congress

Goals: reelection, prestige/power, policy
Pursuit of reelection: advertising, credit-claiming, position-taking

Presidency*

Constitutional basis
Constitutional powers
Presidency as institution
Contemporary bases of pres power

Divided government

Causes: structural and political
Consequences

Presidency: resources & constraints

Bureaucracy*

Bureaucracy and bureaucrats
The organization of the executive branch
Reinventing bureaucracy
Reducing the size of the bureaucracy
Controlling the bureaucracy

The federal courts*

The legal system
Federal jurisdiction
The power of the SC: judicial review
Judicial power and politics

Supreme Court

American legal system
How cases get to the Supreme Court
Supreme Court process
Briefs, including *amicus curiae*
Oral arguments
Vote and opinion writing
Types of opinions
Precedent and *stare decisis*
Extra-legal approaches to decision making: Attitudinal, Strategic, Political
Judicial review: *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

National policy making

Problem, policy, and politics streams →
policy window