

Course Syllabus for AP US Government and Politics

The book used for this course is designed specifically for preparing students for the AP US Government and Politics Exam. The key Major Unit, Institutions of Government, covers 35-40% of the Exam, and thus the course is designed for students in the second semester to have that Unit immediately preceding the Exam.

All tests and quizzes in the course mimic the AP exam. All students are required to answer College Board analytical Free-Response Questions at least every other week.

Although other readings (notably the *Federalist Papers*) are included, it is my practice to use readings from particular newspapers (The *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*) to illustrate key themes throughout the course. This serves two purposes: students will be able to apply political theory to political practice; and students will develop a working understanding of our world via the political arena.

Major Unit One: The American System

I: The Study of American Government:

What is political power? What is democracy? Direct v. representative democracy. Power distribution/four theories. Political change. Who governs?

II: The Constitution

The problem of 'liberty.' The Constitutional Convention. Democracy and Liberty. Motives of the Framers. Modern views of constitutional reform. *Federalist 10*

III: Federalism

Governmental structure. The founding. The meaning of federalism. Federal-state relations. 'Free' money. Federal aid and federal control. Devolution. Congress and federalism. *Federalist 37 and 51*

IV: American Political Culture

Political culture. Comparing America with other nations. Sources of political culture. Mistrust of government. Political efficacy. Political tolerance.

Major Unit Two: Opinions, Interests, and Organizations

V: Public Opinion

What is public opinion? Origins of political attitudes. Cleavages in public opinion. Political ideology. Political elites, public opinion, and public policy.

Students are asked to:

- Analyze polling data and its implications for US government and politics. Data are obtained through newspaper articles or websites such as pollingreport.com. Students research exit poll data as well as public opinion polls.

- Practice as a class, and later individually, analyzing the nuances of polling data.
- Demonstrate their understanding of wording effects in polling, especially in regard to push polling.
- Examine the value of polling numbers over time versus a single poll.
- Interpret the meaning of polling data as depicted in visual representations, such as maps and graphs.

VI: Political Participation

A closer look at nonvoting. The rise of the American electorate. Participation.

VII: Political Parties

Parties in America and Europe. Rise and decline (and rise?) of the political party. National party structure. State and local parties. Two-party system. Minor parties. Nominating a president. Parties v. voters.

VIII: Elections and Campaigns

Presidential v. congressional campaigns. Primary v. general campaigns. Money. What decides the election? Election outcomes. Effects of elections on policy.

IX: Interest Groups

Explaining proliferation. Birth of interest groups. Kinds of organizations. Interest groups and social movements. Funds for interest groups. Bias. Interest group activities. Regulation.

X: The Media

Journalism in US history. Media structure. Rules governing the media. Effects of media on politics. Government and the news. Interpretations of the news.

Major Unit Three: Institutions of Government

XI: Congress

Congress v. Parliaments. Evolution. Members. Getting Elected. Organization: Parties, caucuses, committees, staffs, specialized offices. How a bill becomes law. Voting. Reform. Ethics.

XII: Executive

Presidents v. Prime Ministers. Divided government. Evolution. Powers. Office of the President. Appointments. Presidential character. Persuasion. The power to say 'no.' Setting the agenda. Transition. How powerful is the President?

XIII: Bureaucracy

Growth. Modern bureaucracy. Congressional oversight. Pathologies. Reform.

XIV: Judiciary

Federal court system. Structure. Jurisdiction. Getting to court. Supreme Court.
Checks on judicial power

Major Unit Four: Politics and Public Policy

XV: Policymaking

Setting the agenda. Making decisions. Majoritarian, Interest-group, Client,
Entrepreneurial politics. Business regulation. Perceptions, beliefs, interests and values.

XVI: Policy

Economic policy. Social welfare. Civil liberties. Civil rights. Foreign policy.
Military policy. Environmental policy.

Books and Readings in the Course

Main Textbook:

Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy

Edwards, George C., Martin P. Wattenberg and Robert L. Lineberry.
Advanced Placement Edition - 12th Edition. - 2006

Additional Readings:

Two Treatises of Government, (excerpt from the Second Treatise)

Locke, John, essay

The Federalist Papers

Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison.
Online at THOMAS (Library of Congress) at
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

Democracy in America

Alexis de Tocqueville.
Online at the University of Virginia at
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/toc_indx.html

Perspectives on American Politics

Lasser, William - Fourth Edition - 2004

Politics and the English Language

Orwell, George (Eric Arthur Blair), essay

Contemporary news analysis is a daily activity. Students are responsible for reading the front page of a major newspaper ([The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), etc.) or listening to the news coverage on public radio. This must be done on a daily basis. Also, articles from magazines and political blogposts (Daily Kos, Andrew Sullivan, Glenn Greenwald, National Review's Corner) are read and discussed in class. Contemporary news analysis is incorporated into the classroom through student discussion, in-class readings and responses, written responses and quizzes. Further, students are required to participate in a class AP Government blog in which students post analysis of current events and have interactive discussions with their classmates.

Chapter One

Introducing Government in America

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Distinguish among the fundamental concepts of government, politics, and public policy
- Understand how government, politics, and public policy are inter-related
- Ascertain how people can influence the government's policy agenda
- Describe the basic concept of the policymaking system
- Determine the essential principles of traditional democratic theory
- Examine the three contemporary theories of American democracy: pluralism, elite and class theory, and hyperpluralism
- Discuss and analyze the challenges to democracy presented in the text
- Understand the importance of individualism in limiting the scope of American government
- Begin to assess the two fundamental questions central to governing and that serve as the textbook's themes:
 - *How should we govern?*
 - *What should government do?*

KEY TERMS

democracy
government
hyperpluralism
linkage institutions
minority rights
policy agenda
policymaking institutions
political issue
politics
public policy
single-issue groups

elite and class theory
gross domestic product
individualism
majority rule
pluralist theory
policy gridlock
policymaking system
political participation
public goods
representation

Chapter Two The Constitution

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Outline the events that led early Americans to declare independence from Britain
- Review the basic philosophy that underlies the Declaration
- Summarize the parallels between Locke and Jefferson
- Explain how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation laid the groundwork for the Constitution
- Describe what Madison meant by 'factions' and how he proposed to solve the problems presented by them
- Evaluate how the Constitutional Convention dealt with issues of equality
- Summarize the major compromises of the Constitutional Convention
- Explain why economic issues were so high on the agenda at the Constitutional Convention and how the Framers tried to strengthen the economic powers of the new national government
- Demonstrate what we mean by the "Madisonian model" and how it is incorporated within the Constitution
- Understand why many critics of the Madisonian model argue it reduces efficiency in government
- Describe the differences between Federalist and Anti-Federalist in the debates over the ratification of the Constitution
- Ascertain how constitutional changes - formal and informal - continue to shape and alter the Madisonian system
- Evaluate the Constitution in terms of the theme of democracy that runs throughout the chapter
- Identify factors that have led to a gradual democratization of the Constitution

- Understand how the Constitution affects the scope of government in America

KEY TERMS

Anti-Federalists
Bill of Rights
Connecticut Compromise
Constitution
Equal Rights Amendment
Federalist Papers
Judicial review
Marbury v. Madison
New Jersey Plan
Separation of powers
U.S. Constitution
Writ of *habeas corpus*

Articles of Confederation
Checks and balances
Consent of the governed
Declaration of Independence
Factions
Federalists
Limited government
Natural rights
Republic
Shays' Rebellion
Virginia Plan

Chapter Three Federalism

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the three basic forms of governmental structures: *federalism*, *unitary*, and *confederacy*
- Identify the ways in which the Constitution determines the powers of state and national governments
- Evaluate how contrasting interpretations of the supremacy clause and the Tenth Amendment lead to divergent views of the scope of state and national powers
- Describe how the Supreme Court set forth the principle of implied powers in the *McCulloch v. Maryland* case
- Understand the relationship of implied powers to enumerated powers
- Describe how the Civil War and the civil rights movement contributed to the development of national supremacy over the states
- List and analyze the clauses in the Constitution that define the obligations that each state has to every other state
- Trace the ways in which American federalism has changed over the past two centuries
- Compare the contrasting forms of dual federalism and cooperative federalism
- Describe what is meant by fiscal federalism and assess the role that federal money plays in state policies
- Identify the positive and negative effects American federalism has on democracy

KEY TERMS

Block grants	Categorical grants
Cooperative federalism	Dual federalism
Elastic clause	Enumerated powers
Extradition	Federalism
Fiscal federalism	Formula grants
Full faith and credit	<i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i>

Implied powers

McCulloch v. Maryland

Project grant

Tenth Amendment

Intergovernmental relations

Privileges and immunities

Supremacy clause

Unitary government

Chapter Four
Civil Liberties and Public Policy

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Examine how decisions of the Supreme Court have extended specific provisions of the Bill of Rights to the states as part of the Incorporation Doctrine
- Describe how the two constitutional statements about religion and government - the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause - may sometimes conflict
- Examine what the first Congress may have intended by the terms *establishment* and *free exercise of religion*
- Establish why the Supreme Court will usually not permit prior restraint on speech and press
- Explain why it has been difficult for the courts to clearly define which types of materials are considered to be obscene
- Differentiate between freedom of speech and related concepts like symbolic speech and freedom of expression
- Understand the conflict that can occur between free speech and public order
- Determine how essential rights such as the right to a fair trial can conflict with other rights such as the right to a free press
- Identify the two facets of freedom of assembly and explain how they may conflict with other societal values
- Explain how specific provisions of the Bill of Rights have been used to extend basic rights to defendants in criminal trials
- Ascertain how concepts such as right to privacy can be inferred or implied from the Bill of Rights
- Explain why civil liberties are seen as an individual's protection against the government

KEY TERMS

Unreasonable search and seizure
Commercial speech
Self-incrimination
Exclusionary rule
Free exercise clause
Libel
Prior restraint
Right to privacy

Civil liberties
Cruel and unusual punishment
Establishment clause
Symbolic speech
Incorporation doctrine
Plea bargaining
Probable cause
Search warrant

Chapter Five
Civil Rights and Public Policy

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Understand how civil rights have been used to extend more equality to groups that historically have been subject to discrimination
- Analyze different interpretations of equality, such as equality of opportunity contrasted with equality of results
- Identify provisions of the Bill of Rights that have implications for equality
- Explain how the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of "equal protection of the laws" has been applied to the idea of equality
- Summarize the reasoning of the SCOTUS in *Brown v. Board of Education* and use this case to show how the Court set aside its earlier precedent in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- Show the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and explain why efforts for civil rights legislation were finally successful in the mid-1960s
- Trace the attempts of southern states to deny African-Americans the right to vote even after the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment
- Identify the major public policy milestones in the movement toward gender equality
- Determine the ways in which Americans with disabilities have become the successors to the civil rights movement
- Examine the current issues of equality concerning gay rights activism
- Describe the opposing positions of those who favor affirmative action and those who claim that these policies simply create reverse discrimination
- Analyze how the important democratic principles of equality and individual liberty may actually conflict with each other
- Determine how civil rights laws increase the scope and power of government

KEY TERMS

Affirmative action
1990

Civil rights

Comparable worth

Equal Rights Amendment

Fourteenth Amendment

Poll taxes

Thirteenth Amendment

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Grandfather clauses

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke

Americans with Disabilities Act of

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Equal protection of the laws

Fifteenth Amendment

Nineteenth Amendment

Suffrage

Twenty-fourth Amendment

White Primary

Korematsu v. United States

Scott v. Sandford

Chapter Six
Public Opinion and Political Action

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Contrast the relative positions of African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans in the US political and economic spheres
- Identify the political implications of an increasingly elderly population
- Describe the process of political socialization and identify the primary agents of socialization
- Outline the components that are essential if one wants to obtain accuracy in public opinion polling
- Evaluate the role of polls in US democracy
- Identify the political beliefs that are likely to be preferred by liberals and conservatives
- Identify the activities that encompass political participation in the US
- Distinguish between conventional and unconventional types of political participation
- Show how nonviolent civil disobedience was one of the most effective techniques of the civil rights movement in the US south
- Explain what political scientists mean when they conclude that Americans are *ideological conservatives* but *operational liberals*

KEY TERMS

Census	Civil disobedience
Demography	Exit poll
Gender gap	Melting pot
Minority majority	Political culture
Political ideology	Political participation
Protest	Public opinion
Random digit dialing	Random sampling
Reapportionment	Sample
Sampling error	

Chapter Seven
Mass Media & the Political Agenda

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Trace the development of the mass media and the way in which presidents have used the media in different periods of US history
- Describe the major sources that people rely on for their information about politics
- Determine how journalists define what is newsworthy, where they get their information, and how they present it
- Explain the role that the profit motive plays in decisions by the mass media on how to report the news
- Examine and analyze the charge that the media have a liberal, or conservative, bias
- Identify factors that would explain why the news is typically characterized by political neutrality
- Determine methods used by political activists to get their ideas placed high on the governmental agenda
- Clarify how the media act as key linkage institutions between the people and the policymakers
- Describe how the rise of television broadcasting has encouraged individualism - and conformity - in the US political system
- Explain why the rise of the "information society" has not brought about a corresponding rise of an "informed society"
- Summarize how the news and its presentation are important influences in shaping public opinion on political issues
- Examine the new possibilities that the internet is having on the media and on the political process, including elections, information gathering and dissemination, and activation

KEY TERMS

Beats

Chains

Investigative journalism

Media event

Policy agenda

Press conferences

Sound bites

Trial balloons

Broadcast media

High-tech politics

Mass media

Narrowcasting

Policy entrepreneurs

Print media

Talking head

Webmaster

Chapter Eight Political Parties

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Understand the roles of the party-in-the-electorate, the party as an organization, and the party-in-government
- Examine how political parties in a democracy serve as key linkage institutions to translate inputs from the public into outputs from the policymakers
- Describe Anthony Downs' rational-choice theory as a working model of the relationship among citizens, parties, and policy
- Trace the historical development of the US two-party system
- Examine the significance of divided government and explain how the recent pattern of divided government may explain party dealignment
- Differentiate between the ideology or party philosophy of the Democratic and Republican parties
- Explain how electoral rules such as the 'winner-take-all' plurality system have helped to maintain a two-party system in the US
- Evaluate the impact of third parties on US politics and the US party system
- Describe the consequences or effects of the US two-party system as contrasted with a multi-party system
- Understand the significance of the weak and decentralized character of the US party system

KEY TERMS

blanket primaries
coalition governments
critical election
national chairperson
national convention
open primaries
party dealignment
party identification

coalition
closed primaries
linkage institutions
national committee
New Deal coalition
party competition
party eras
party image

party machine
party realignment
political party
rational-choice theory
third parties
winner-take-all system

party neutrality
patronage
proportional representation
responsible party model
ticket-splitting

Chapter Nine
Nominations and Campaigns

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the role of *campaign strategy* in winning a nomination to elective office.
- Describe and evaluate the *caucus* and *primary* methods of delegate selection.
- Contrast the American primary system of nomination with those of other nations such as Great Britain.
- Trace the historical evolution of national party conventions as nominating vehicles for presidential candidates.
- Consider the ways that high-tech campaigning has changed the nature of American politics.
- Examine the growth of PACs and their impact on modern campaigning.
- Assess the crucial role of money and technology in American campaign organizations.
- Analyze the role the media play in influencing the style and substance of presidential campaigns.
- Discuss the three effects that campaigns have on voters: *reinforcement*, *activation*, and *conversion*.
- Evaluate whether the “openness” of the American style of campaigning leads to a more democratic system of government.
- Assess whether or not American presidential elections lead to an increased scope of government.

KEY TERMS

campaign strategy

direct mail

Federal Election Commission (FEC)

matching funds

national party convention

nomination

Political Action Committee (PAC)

presidential primaries

selective perception

superdelegates

McCain-Feingold provisions

valence issues

caucus

Federal Election Campaign Act

frontloading

McGovern-Fraser Commission

national primary

party platform

Presidential Election Campaign Fund

regional primaries

soft money

527 groups

501(b) and (c) groups

OpenSecrets.org

Chapter Ten
Elections and Voting Behavior

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Explain how elections provide regular access to political power and how the process is related to the level of political *legitimacy*.
- Describe procedures that permit voters to enact legislation directly, such as the initiative, petition, and referendum.
- Trace the historical evolution of the American style of campaigning from 1800 to 2004.
- Identify the characteristics of voters and nonvoters.
- Explore the reasons why voter turnout has actually declined as the right to vote was extended to new groups.
- Ascertain the role that voter registration procedures and requirements have played in structuring voter turnout.
- Explain why *party identification* is crucial for many voters and review the decline of party affiliation since the 1950's.
- Identify the conditions that must be present for true *policy voting* to occur.
- Outline the procedures of the electoral college and compare the present system with the process that was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution.
- Understand the tasks that elections accomplish, according to democratic theory.
- Establish how elections may affect public policy and how public policy may affect elections.
- Analyze how elections influence the scope of government in a democracy.

KEY TERMS

Civic duty

Electoral college

Initiative Petition

Legitimacy

Policy voting

Retrospective voting

Mandate theory of elections

Political efficacy

Suffrage

Motor Voter Act

Referendum

Voter registration

Chapter Eleven
Interest Groups

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Distinguish the essential differences between *interest groups* and *political parties*.
- Understand 3 basic theories of interest group politics: *pluralist* theory, *elite* theory, and *hyperpluralist* theory.
- Determine the factors that tend to make an interest group successful.
- Differentiate between a *potential group* and an *actual group*, and determine how the *free rider problem* applies.
- Explain how interest groups try to shape public policy and how lobbyists represent interest groups in influencing the legislative agenda.
- Describe various types of interest groups.
- Explain why the authors of the textbook say that the problems of honest lobbying now appear to outweigh the traditional problems of dishonest lobbying.
- Summarize the implications for the size of government that are generated by the power of PACs and special interest groups.
- Analyze the appropriate role of interest groups within a democratic environment.

KEY TERMS

Actual group lawsuits	<i>Amicus curiae</i> briefs	Class action
Collective good	Electioneering	Elite theory
Free-rider problem	Hyperpluralist theory	Interest groups
Lobbying theory	Olson's law of large groups	Pluralist
PAC's lobbies	Potential group	Public interest
Right to work law groups	Selective benefits	Single-issue
Subgovernments	Union shop	Iron triangles

Chapter Twelve

Congress

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the essential role and functions of a senator and representative.
- Examine the role of money in congressional elections- where it comes from, how it is used, and what effect it has.
- Summarize both the advantages and disadvantages of the growing influence of PACs.
- Contrast organizational style and procedures in the House of Representatives with those of the Senate.
- Identify the major leadership positions in the House and Senate and summarize the functions of each office.
- Review the four types of congressional committees and explain how they control the congressional agenda and guide legislation.
- Determine the significance of legislative procedures like the *filibuster* and *oversight*.
- Outline the process by which a bill would move through the legislative process, from introduction to the point where it is sent to the president.
- Contrast three theories of the role of a legislator: *trustee*, *instructed delegate*, and *politico*.
- Appraise the influence of lobbyists and interest groups on the legislative process.
- Identify both representative and unrepresentative aspects of Congress.
- Examine the effect that the U.S. Congress has had on the *scope* of government.

KEY TERMS

bicameralism	bill	casework
caucus	committee chairs	conference committee
filibuster	Rules Committee	incumbents
joint committees	legislative oversight	majority leader
minority leader	pork barrel	select committees
seniority system	Speaker of the House	standing committees
whip	Majority Leader	legislative veto
honoraria	joint resolution	CBO
marginal districts	impoundment	Act of Admission
rider	Commerce Clause	coalition
Congressional Black Caucus	Blue Dog Democrats	Committee of the Whole
cloture	elastic clause	Rule 22
maverick	senatorial courtesy	unicameralism
major party/minor party/party eras		
Offices requiring Senate confirmation		
All Standing Committees of the House and the Senate		

Chapter Thirteen
The Presidency

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Describe the constitutional process of impeachment and explain why it is so difficult to remove a discredited president before the end of their term.
- Outline the procedures established in the twenty-fifth Amendment to deal with presidential succession and presidential disability.
- Trace the evolution of the presidency from the limited office envisioned by the framers to the more powerful contemporary office.
- Identify the major offices and positions that serve as key aids and advisors to the president.
- Examine the ways in which the American system of separation of powers is actually one of *shared* powers.
- Review methods by which presidents may improve their chances of obtaining party support in Congress.
- Summarize the constitutional powers that are allocated to the president in the realm of national security.
- Identify and review the major roles and functions of the president, such as the chief executive, chief legislator, commander in chief, and crisis manager.
- Determine the role that public opinion plays in setting and implementing the president's agenda.
- Describe the methods used by presidents and their advisors to encourage the media to project a positive image of the president's activities and policies.
- Examine the impact that changing world events (such as the transition from the 1950's and 1960's to the era of Vietnam and Watergate) have had on public debate whether a strong president is a threat or a support to democratic government.

KEY TERMS

Cabinet	Council of Economic Advisers (CEA)
Crisis	Impeachment
Legislative Veto	National Security Council (NSC)
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	Pocket Veto
Presidential Coattails	Twenty-fifth Amendment
Twenty-second Amendment	Veto
War Powers Resolution	Watergate
Kitchen Cabinet	White House Office
Executive Office of the President	Unitary theory
Iran-Contra	National Security Advisor
Commander-in-Chief (CiC)	Circular/Pyramid/Ad Hoc organizational
models	
Executive Order	Signing statements
Executive privilege	Line-item veto
Lame duck	Pardons
Chief of Staff	Secret Service

Chapter Fourteen
The Congress, the President, and the Budget:
The Politics of Taxing and Spending

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Identify the major sources of federal revenue and the major recipients of federal tax expenditures
- Determine how tax expenditures benefit middle- and upper-income taxpayers and corporations
- Discuss how the rise of the national security state and the rise of the social service state are associated with government growth in America
- Explain the word incrementalism and how it describes the spending and appropriations process
- Explain the impact that "uncontrollable" expenditures and entitlements have on the federal budget
- Identify the key players and decision makers in the budgetary process
- Outline the steps involved in developing the president's budget
- Outline the steps in developing the congressional budget process
- Understand the importance of budget resolution, reconciliation, authorization, and appropriation stages in the budget process
- Evaluate the ways in which the budget affects the scope of government

KEY TERMS

budget

Sixteenth Amendment

tax expenditure

personal and corporate income taxes

Tax Reform Act of 1986

sequestrations

Social Security Act

incrementalism

entitlements

House Ways and Means Committee

Office of Management and Budget

Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974

reconciliation

continuing resolutions

Act

deficit

federal debt

tax loophole

balanced budget amendment

gross domestic product

military-industrial complex

Medicare and Medicaid

uncontrollable expenditure

power of the purse

Senate Finance Committee

Congressional Budget Office

budget resolution

authorization bill

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings

Chapter Fifteen
The Bureaucracy

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Identify common myths that surround the bureaucracy and either justify or refute them
- Describe in what ways the permanent bureaucracy is broadly representative of the American people
- Trace the development of the American bureaucracy from the "spoils system" to the "merit system", and to evaluate whether or not this is reverting back
- Identify and describe several theories of the functions and organization of bureaucracies
- Distinguish among the four basic types of federal agencies: cabinet departments, regulatory agencies, government corporations, and independent executive agencies
- Explain why implementation of policy can break down
- Describe the importance of administrative routine and administrative discretion
- Evaluate the effects that the movement toward deregulation has had on the American political system and the American economy
- Determine how presidents try to control the bureaucracy and how Congress tries to control the bureaucracy
- Investigate the importance of iron triangles and issue networks
- Explain the relationship between democratic theory & bureaucracy operation

KEY TERMS

Administrative discretion
Civil service
Deregulation
Governmental corporations

Bureaucracy
Command-and-control policy
Executive orders
GS (General Service) rating

Hatch Act
Independent executive agencies
Iron triangles
Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
Pendleton Civil Service Act
Regulation
Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Incentive system
Independent regulatory agency
Merit principle
Patronage
Policy implementation
Senior Executive Service
Street-level bureaucrats

Chapter Sixteen
The Judiciary and the Courts

OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- Explain why the American judicial system is called an adversarial system.
- Identify the major actors in the judicial system and explain their functions and responsibilities.
- Describe the functions of federal district courts, courts of appeals, and the SCOTUS.
- Summarize judicial selection procedures for federal judges and justices.
- Discuss the backgrounds of judges and justices.
- Describe the role of the courts as policymakers.
- Summarize procedure in the SCOTUS, including the "discuss list," oral argument, the conference, and opinion writing.
- Explain the importance of opinion writing at SCOTUS level and describe the different types of opinions.
- Identify factors used by the SCOTUS in deciding which cases to accept for review.
- Analyze the contrasting positions of judicial activism and judicial restraint.
- Trace the historical evolution of the policy agenda of the SCOTUS.
- Examine the ways in which American courts are both democratic and undemocratic institutions.

KEY TERMS

amicus curiae briefs
class action suits
district courts
judicial implementation
justiciable disputes
original intent

appellate jurisdiction
courts of appeal
judicial activism
judicial review
opinion
original jurisdiction

political questions
senatorial courtesy
standing
statutory construction

precedent
solicitor general
stare decisis
SCOTUS

(more on back)

You will need to know the course of a case through the state and federal court system, and all of the federal courts.

You will need to know the particulars of the following cases for a short-answer test in the near future. I suggest starting with Wikipedia for these - the synopses are quite understandable.

Buckley v. Valeo 1976

Dred Scott v. Sanford 1857

Fletcher v. Peck 1810

Gibbons v. Ogden 1824

Marbury v. Madison 1803

Miranda v. Arizona 1966

Plessy v. Ferguson 1896

Schenck v. United States 1919

United States v. Nixon 1973

Gideon v. Wainwright 1963

McCulloch v. Maryland 1819

Brown v. Board of Education 1954

CH. 20 National Security Policymaking

Objectives

- Understand how the instruments of foreign policy differ from those of domestic policy
- List the major international and regional organizations and describe their roles in the realm of international relations
- Determine how multinational corporations, groups, and individuals operate as actors in international relations
- Identify the primary policymakers involved in foreign policy decision making
- Delineate the major institutions of the US national security establishment
- Briefly outline American diplomatic history from the period of isolationism to contemporary involvement in international relations
- Summarize how domestic political concerns, budgetary limitations, and ideology all have a role in influencing decisions regarding the structure of defense policy
- Outline the major agreements negotiated by the US and other nations on arms limitations and nuclear reduction
- Explain why the Middle East is such an important component of US foreign policy
- Evaluate the roles that democracy and the scope of government play in the development of foreign policy and international relations

Arms race

Central Intelligence Agency

Containment doctrine

European Union

Interdependency

Joint Chiefs of Staff

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Countries

Secretary of Defense

Secretary of State

National Security Agency

Tariff

United Nations

Balance of trade

Cold war

Détente

Foreign policy

Isolationism

McCarthyism

Organization of Petroleum Exporting

Secretary of Homeland Security

Pentagon

Strategic Defense Initiative

North American Free Trade Agreement