

AP Government: Unit 1: Constitutional Underpinnings
Chapter 1, 2, 3

Time: 2 Weeks

Objectives

- 1. The framers of the United States Constitution created a federal system.**
 - a) Define federalism.
 - b) Explain how each of the following has been used to increase the power of the federal government relative to the states.
 - Categorical grants
 - Federal mandates
 - The “necessary and proper” or “elastic” clause
 - c) Explain how the following has been used to increase the power of the states relative to the federal government.
 - Block grants

- 2. The framers of the United States Constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.**
 - a) Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature.
 - b) Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power.
 - c) Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power.

- 3. The United States Constitution has endured for more than two centuries as the framework of government. However, the meaning of the Constitution has been changed both by formal and informal methods.**
 - a) Identify two formal methods for adding amendments to the Constitution.
 - b) Describe two informal methods that have been used to change the meaning of the Constitution. Provide one specific example for each informal method you described.
 - c) Explain why informal methods are used more often than the formal amendment process.

- 4. The Constitution was an attempt to address problems of decentralization that were experienced under the Articles of Confederation.**
 - a) List three problems of decentralized power that existed under the Articles of Confederation. For each problem you listed, identify one solution that the Constitution provided to address the problem.
 - b) Some have argued that the tensions between decentralized and centralized power continue to exist. Support this argument by explaining how the following illustrates the continuing tension.
 - Disability access

Activities

Homework Due

Day 1: Syllabus, class policies, textbooks; Political power survey	
Day 2: Political power theories, “People of Paradox” (Lanahan 30-34)	
Day 3: The Articles and the Constitution, “Federalist #10” (Lasser 4-9)	21-28
Day 4: Key Principles of the Constitution, “Federalist #51” (Lasser 14-18)	28-37
Day 5: Constitutional Reform: Modern Views	40-45
Day 6: Federalism; Who Has the Power?	49-59
Day 7: Federal-State Relations	60-66
Day 8: Federal Aid and Devolution	66-72
Day 9: Unit 1 Review	
Day 10: Unit 1 Test: Chapters 1-3	

Key Terms

government	power	authority	legitimacy	democracy	direct democracy
representative democracy	majoritarian	elite	Marxist view	power elite view	
bureaucratic view	pluralist view	self-interest			
amendment	Articles of Confederation	bill of attainder	Bill of Rights	checks and balances	coalition
concurrent powers	enumerated powers	ex post facto law	faction	federalism	Habeus Corpus
inalienable	line-item veto	republic	reserved powers	separation of powers	
Shay’s Rebellion	centralization	decentralization	bicameral		
block grants	conditions of aid	devolution	dual federalism	grants-in-aid	initiative
mandates	nullification	police power	recall	referendum	ADA
categorical grants	necessary and proper/elastic clause				

AP Government Unit 2: Political Culture, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights
Chapters 4,5,6

Time: 2 ½ Weeks

Objectives

1. The First Amendment includes two clauses relating to freedom of religion.

a) Select one of the following cases and identify the First Amendment clause upon which the United States Supreme Court based its decision.

-Engel v. Vitale (school prayer)

-Lemon v. Kurtzman (state funding for private religious schools)

b) Describe the Supreme Court's decision in the case you selected in (a)

c) Select one of the following cases and identify the First Amendment clause upon which the Supreme Court based its decision.

-Reynolds v. United States (polygamy)

-Oregon v. Smith (drug use in religious ceremonies)

d) Describe the Supreme Court's decision in the case that you selected in (c).

e) Many of these decisions have caused controversy in the United States. Describe two ways in which other political institutions might limit the impact of Supreme Court decisions.

2. Initially, the United States Constitution did little to protect citizens from actions of the states. In the twentieth century, the Supreme Court interpreted the Constitution to protect the rights of citizens from state governments in a process known as incorporation.

a) Define selective incorporation.

b) For two of the following, explain how each has been incorporated. Each of your explanations must be based on a specific and relevant Supreme Court decision.

-Rights of criminal defendants

-First Amendment

-Privacy Rights

3. Many scholars and observers have argued that the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has become the single most important act in all of the United States politics.

a) Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.

-Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954)

-Baker v. Carr (1962)

-Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

b) Identify which provision of the Fourteenth Amendment was applied in one of the following Supreme Court cases. For the case you select, explain the significance of the decision in United States politics.

-Mapp v. Ohio (1961)

-Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

-Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

Topics and Assignments

Day 11: Test 1 Review, Introduction to Political Culture

Day 12: Political Culture

Day 13: The Sources of Political Culture; Civil Liberties and Culture

Day 14: The First Amendment

Homework Due

None

76-80, 82-84

84-93; 98-102

102-110

Day 15: Church and State

110-113

Day 16: Crime and Due Process

113-121

Day 17: Civil Rights/ Race and Public Policy

125-134

Day 18: Racial Profiling and Women's Rights

134-144

Day 19: Affirmative Action and Homosexuality

144-151

Day 20: Review

Day 23: Test Chapters 4-6 (BLOCK DAY: ODD CLASSES TEST WED, EVEN CLASSES TEST THURS)

Key Terms

Political culture liberty equality democracy

civic duty/individual responsibility

sources of political culture

Class consciousness

culture war

orthodox/progressive

political efficacy (internal vs. external)

Political tolerance

Civil liberties

due process of law

equal protection of the laws

selective incorporation

Freedom of expression

freedom of religion

prior restraint

clear-and-present danger test

Libel

obscenity

symbolic speech

"person"

Free exercise clause

establishment clause

wall of separation

exclusionary rule

Search warrant

probable cause

"Miranda warning"

good-faith exception

Civil Rights

suspect classifications

strict scrutiny

separate-but-equal doctrine

De jure segregation

de facto segregation

civil disobedience

police powers

Sexual harassment

affirmative action

equality of results

reverse discrimination

equality of opportunity

AP United States Government and Politics: Unit 3: Political Beliefs and Behaviors
Chapters 7 and 8

Time: 1 week

Objectives

1. Trust and confidence in government have declined in recent decades.
 - (a) Explain how divided government has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government. Be sure to include a definition of divided government in your response.
 - (b) Explain how the increased cost of election campaigns has contributed to the decline in trust and confidence in government.
 - (c) Explain two specific consequences of the decline in trust and confidence in government for individual political behavior.
2. Citizens often choose to participate in the political process in ways other than voting.
 - (a) Identify two forms of participation in the political process other than voting.
 - (b) Explain two advantages of each form of participation you identified in (a).
3. In the last half of the twentieth century, voter turnout in federal elections has declined. During the same period, voter turnout has been higher in presidential elections than in midterm elections.
 - (a) Identify two factors that have contributed to the overall decline in turnout in federal elections and explain how each factor has contributed to the overall decline.
 - (b) Identify and explain two reasons why voter turnout has been higher in presidential elections than in midterm elections.

Activities/Assignments

Homework Due

Day 1: Public opinion, polling, and cleavage	none (in class 155-67)
Day 2: Political ideology	167-74
Day 3: Nonvoting and the American Electorate	178-87
Day 4: Participation	187-95
Day 5: Test	date: _____

Key Terms

Public opinion	poll	random sample	sampling error	exit polls
Political socialization factors: FAMILY, religion, gender gap, schooling/information				
Cleavages: social class, race, ethnicity, region				
Political ideology	liberal	conservative	radical	
“pure liberals”	“pure conservatives”		“libertarians”	“populists”
Political elites	norms			
Nonvoting	voting-age population	registered voters	electorate	literacy test
Poll tax	grandfather clause	white primary	voter turnout	Australian ballot
Forms of participation	activists			

Chapters 9 and 10

Time: 2 Weeks

Objectives

1. The United States Congress has debated a variety of campaign finance reforms over the last decade. The proposals have included the following:

Eliminating soft money

Limiting independent expenditures

Raising limits on individual contributions

(a) Select one of the listed proposals and do all of the following:

-Define the proposal

-Describe an argument that proponents make in favor of the proposal

-Describe an argument that opponents make against the proposal

(b) Select a different listed proposal and do all of the above tasks for that proposal

2. Minor parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States politics.

(a) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.

(b) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.

3. The three obstacles listed below have made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform.

-Buckley v. Valeo (1976)

-Soft Money

-Incumbency

Select two of the obstacles. For each obstacle, provide both of the following.

(a) A brief description of the obstacle

(b) An explanation of how the obstacle has made it difficult for Congress to enact significant campaign finance reform

Activities/Assignments

Homework Due

Day 1: Political parties, realignments, and decline	None
Day 2: The national party structure today	207-17
Day 3: The two-party system and minor parties	217-26
Day 4: Presidential vs. Congressional Campaigns	231-37
Day 5: Primary vs. general campaigns	237-44
Day 6: Money	244-53
Day 7: What decides the election?	253-62
Day 8: Test	

Key Terms

Political party	critical/realigning periods	split ticket voting	straight ticket voting	national convention
National committee		congressional campaign committee		national chairman
Superdelegate	political machine	ideological party	solidarity incentives	sponsored party
Personal following		two-party system	plurality system	minor (third) party
Primary	caucus			
Incumbent	coattails	political action committee (PAC)		malapportionment
Gerrymandering	sophomore surge	position issue	valence issue	clothespin vote
General, primary elections		open, closed primaries	runoff	delegate
Major federal campaign finance rules				
Independent expenditures		soft money	527 organizations	
Prospective voting	retrospective voting			

CHAPTERS 11 AND 12

Time: 2 Weeks

Objectives

1. While interest groups and political parties each play a significant role in the United States political system, they differ in their fundamental goals.
 - (a) Identify the fundamental goal of interest groups in the political process.
 - (b) Identify the fundamental goal of major political parties in the political process.
 - (c) Describe two different ways by which interest groups support the fundamental goal of political parties in the political process.
 - (d) For one of the forms of support you described in (c), explain two different ways in which that form of support helps interest groups to achieve their fundamental goal in the political process.
2. Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objectives based on their resources, characteristics, and goals.
 - (a) Describe each of the following techniques and explain why an interest group would choose each technique.
 - Litigation
 - Campaign contributions
 - Grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization
 - (b) Select one of the following groups and identify the primary technique it uses from the list in part (a). Explain why the group you selected would employ that technique over the other two techniques.
 - American Medical Association (AMA)
 - Sierra Club
 - National Rifle Association (NRA)
 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Activities/Assignments

- Day 1: Interest Group Chart
- Day 2: Interest Group Proliferation
- Day 3: Funds for Interest Groups
- Day 4: The Media
- Day 5: The Structure of the Media
- Day 6: Are the Media Biased? Government and the News
- Day 7: Unit 5 Test*

Homework Due

- None
- 265-268 (outline) read pages 268-76
- 276-287
- 292-298
- 298-302
- 303-307 (outline); read 307-313
- Date:

This test will have review multiple choice questions from units 1-4, too.

- Unit 1: Constitution and Federalism
- Unit 2: Political Culture, Civil Rights, Civil Liberties
- Unit 3: Political Beliefs, Behaviors, Participation
- Unit 4: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

VOCABULARY

Interest group	Litigation	Grassroots lobbying	K Street	American Medical Association	
Sierra Club	National Rifle Association	NAACP	AARP	Think Tank	
NOW	Equal Rights Amendment	Labor Union	political cue	ratings	
Lobby	Revolving Door	PAC (political action committee)			
Blog	FCC	sound bite	gatekeeper	scorekeeper	watchdog
Prior restraint	equal time rule	trial balloon	loaded language	news leak	C-SPAN
Photo op	adversarial press				

Time: 1 ½ Weeks

Objectives

1. **The framers of the United States Constitution created a legislative system that is bicameral. However, it is not just bicameral; the framers also established two houses of distinctly different character and authority.**

- (a) Discuss two reasons why the framers created a bicameral legislature.
- (b) Identify one power unique to the House of Representatives and explain why the framers gave the House that power.
- (c) Identify one power unique to the Senate and explain why the framers gave the Senate that power.

2. **Both party leadership and committees in Congress play key roles in the legislative process.**

- (a) Define the following elements of the congressional committee system and explain how each influences the legislative process.
 - Specialization
 - Reciprocity/logrolling
 - Party representation on committees

(b) Identify two ways party leadership in Congress can influence the legislative process, and explain how each way influences the process.

3. **In the United States Congress, the majority party exerts a substantial influence over lawmaking. However, even when one party has a numerical majority in each chamber of the United States Congress, there is no guarantee that legislation supported by that majority party will be passed by both chambers. Rules of each chamber independently influence the likelihood that legislation will pass in that chamber; legislation passed by one chamber is not always passed by the other.**

- (a) Describe two advantages the majority party in the United States House of Representatives has in lawmaking, above and beyond the numerical advantage that that majority party enjoys in floor voting.
- (b) Describe two differences between the House and Senate rules that may make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other.
- (c) Explain how the differences identified in (b) can lead to the passage of a bill in one chamber but not in the other.

Assignments/Activities

- Day 1: Bicameral Congress- FRQ Work
- Day 2: Who is in Congress?
- Day 3: The Organization of Congress
- Day 4: How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Day 5: Power, Perks, and Post 9/11
- Day 6: Review
- Day 7: Unit 6 Test

Homework Due

- None
- 325-334
- 334-47
- 347-58
- 358-62
- None
- DATE: _____

- Cloture motion necessary and proper clause
- Standing committees House of Rep. elections
- Communication between congressional reps and constituents
- Role of conference committee
- Congressional standing committees
- Rules of procedure in House and Senate
- Importance of Rules Committee in House

- incumbents congressional districts
- committee chair House vs. Senate differences
- incumbent senators and reelection
- why committee system in House more important than Senate
- 1992 election changes in Congress
- tool of Congress for oversight of bureaucracy

Time: 2 Weeks

Objectives

1. The United States Congress and the President together have the power to enact federal law. Federal bureaucratic agencies have the responsibility to execute federal law. However, in the carrying out of these laws, federal agencies have policy-making discretion.

(a) Explain two reasons why Congress gives federal agencies policy-making discretion in executing federal laws.

(b) Choose one of the bureaucratic agencies listed below. Identify the policy area over which it exercises policy-making discretion AND give one specific example of how it exercises that discretion.

-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

-Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

-Federal Reserve Board

(c) Describe two ways in which Congress ensures that federal agencies follow legislative intent.

2. Presidential approval ratings fluctuate over the course of each presidential administration.

(a) Identify two factors that decrease presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

(b) Identify two factors that increase presidential approval ratings, and explain why each factor has that effect.

3. The concept of “divided government” in the United States means that one political party can control the executive branch while another controls the legislative branch. This poses problems for the President in making appointments to federal offices.

(a) Describe two problems that divided government poses for Presidents in making federal appointments.

(b) Identify and explain two ways Presidents try to overcome the problems described in (a).

Assignments/Activities

Day 1: 368-373; 376-77

Day 2: 379-85

Day 3: 385-90

Day 4: 390-97

Day 5: 397-406

Day 6: 410-11, 414-21

Day 7: Test date __