

POSC 10
Final Study Guide
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Exam is cumulative but weighted heavily towards the second part of the course. Most exam questions are covered on both study guides. However, it is possible something not on the study guide will be on the exam. If you look at the syllabus, you will see that everything covered in class or in the text is fair game. The exam will be about 80 questions and consist of mostly multiple choice; with some true/false.

See previous study guide/exam.

Ch 7. Political parties:

How did they develop? What does the Constitution say about them?

What exactly is a political party?

What is party polarization? What do parties do, what is their unifying role?

Do parties exist for ideological purposes or to win elections?

Party Development: realignment, different two party systems in American Politics. (i.e., party systems over time)

Different types of elections: primaries, generals, recalls, etc.

What is proportional representation?

What is instant-runoff voting (or ranked-choice voting)?

What is redistricting? How do different states determine their congressional and legislative districts?

What does the Supreme Court say about redistricting?

What is/was the Southern Strategy?

Ch. 7 Elections:

How do voters decide who to vote for? i.e., what are the different mechanisms that underlie voter behavior? Know the role of money in politics.

Differences between Political Action Committees and 527 Committees; What does the Supreme Court have to say about campaign spending?

Know about political participation, who tends to participate more? Is this changing over time? What are group affiliations?

Ch. 9 Congress:

How many members of the House?

How many members of the Senate?
What is the size of the average district (population)?
Which states only have 1 House member?
Frequency of elections in the two chambers?
How does this frequency affect legislative behavior and responsiveness to constituents and interest groups? (i.e., are Representatives more responsive than Senators? If so, why?)

Know the different ways that Members of Congress (MC) go about deciding how to vote on legislation.

What is patronage? What is pork/earmarks/logrolling?
Has patronage changed over time? What is congressional oversight?

Congress: Know the different roles, power of Speaker of the House, majority/minority leaders, whips.
How is House and Senate different vis-à-vis leadership?
What is the filibuster and which house is it used in?
What is partisan polarization? And has it changed over time?
What are different types of votes Congress will engage in (straight line, party unity, etc.)?
What are the resources congressional party leaders have to discipline their members (rank and file)?

Ch. 9 Presidency:

What are requirements for presidency?
How long is the term, how many terms?
Did this ever change, how?
What is impeachment? Which chamber is the “jury” and which passes ultimate judgment?

Know about the electoral college. Is it just? Is it fair?
Know the expressed powers of president and how other branches can check that.

What is the president’s military authority, diplomatic authority, legislative authority? What are different leadership styles, FDR, Kennedy, etc.?

Ch. 12 Judiciary:

What is a defendant, what is a plaintiff?
What is habeas corpus, stare decisis?
What is a precedent in legal terms? What is writ of certiorari (not Ferrari)? Amicus curiae? What is judicial review?

What is a trial court, what is an appellate court?
How does the state system differ from the Federal system?

How many federal appellate court districts are there?

How many U.S. District courts?

Is the nomination process for the Supreme Court political or apolitical?

What are some recent examples? What are the rules of oral arguments before the Supreme Court?