

## AP U.S. Government – Midterm Study Guide

Spring 2014

### **Midterm Exam Details**

- Covers Ch. 12 -18, split over two days: written – Wed. 4/2, MC – Thu. 4/3
- Written: 4 FRQs (you choose 2) – *FRQs taken from actual AP exams between 2000 and 2013*
- Multiple Choice: 45 questions – *MCs taken from AP Review Exams & Review Books*

### **Concepts/Terms you should know/be able to explain**

(concepts are grouped under topics – several concepts may be addressed in multiple chapters)

#### **Ch. 12 – Congress**

- Functions of different types of committees
- Gerrymandering & its effects/independent commissions
- Meaning of bicameralism
- “implied powers” doctrine
- Formal procedure for ending a filibuster
- Logrolling
- Differences between House of Representatives & the Senate
- Powers shared between House of Representatives & the Senate
- Trustee vs. delegate model of representation
- Direct democracy vs. republican government
- Budgetary/legislative oversight powers
- Senate advice & consent power

#### **Ch. 13 – The Presidency**

- War Powers Resolution/power as commander in chief
- Purpose of the Cabinet
- Reasons for post-1939 expansion of the executive branch
- Constitutional checks & balances on the president
- Informal vs. formal powers
- Executive agreements & orders
- Presidential vetoes

#### **Ch. 14 – Congress & Presidential Budget-making**

- 1980s – trend of shifting federal responsibilities/costs to state governments
- Congressional committees for changes in taxes/shaping tax policies
- Reasons for tensions between legislative & executive branches

#### **Ch. 15 – Bureaucracy**

- Methods of Congressional oversight
- Regulatory vs. administrative policies
- Money appropriated by Congress (bureaucratic implementation)
- Relationship between Congress & executive agencies
- Independent agencies vs. regulatory commissions
- Bureaucratic discretion & iron triangles

#### **Ch. 16 – The Federal Courts**

- Supremacy Clause
- Judicial activism vs. judicial restraint
- *Stare decisis*
- Constitutional power of Congress to control judicial branch
- Responsiveness to public opinion
- Writ of *habeas corpus*
- Use of courts by civil rights activists
- Function of the Senate Judiciary Committee
- Effect of presidential party affiliation on judicial appointments

#### **Ch. 17 – Economic Policymaking**

- Federal Reserve/Treasury Department (functions of, differences between)
- Primary purpose of NAFTA
- Monetary vs. fiscal policy

#### **Ch. 18 – Social Welfare Policymaking**

- Reasons for increase in government expenditures since 1960s (entitlements)