

U.S. Government – Final Study Guide

Spring 2014

Final Exam Details

- Covers Ch. 7, 10, 13, & 18 (4 chapters)
- 40 matching, 40 multiple choice, 7 essays (you choose 4): 100 pts total
- Thursday, May 29th, 2014 @ 8:00 AM (make up exam on Fri. 5/30 @ 8:00 AM if you are on the Spanish trip)

Concepts/Terms you should know/be able to explain

(pertains to multiple choice/essays—vocabulary for matching section is taken from throughout each chapter)

Ch. 7 – The Electoral Process

- Smallest geographic unit for elections
- Party-column vs. office-group ballot
- Drawbacks of need for large amounts of money for campaigning
- Most expensive items in campaign budgets
- FEC & its purposes
- Importance of the nomination process in a 2-party system
- Straight-ticket vs. split-ticket voting
- Gradual democratization of the voting process
- Effects of PACs on campaign finance
- Do elections = democracy? Why or why not?
- Relevance of the electors in the electoral college vote—do they follow the intent of the Constitution?

Ch. 10 – Congress

- Qualifications for House members
- House vs. Senate (demographics, purposes, tasks)
- Session vs. term of Congress
- Demographics of Congress (white v. minority)
- Roles of Congress members
- Use of gerrymandering by state legislatures
- Date of congressional elections
- Impact of the 17th Amendment
- Reasons for a bicameral Congress
- Effect of large amount of business
- At-large elections for House vs. Senate

Ch. 13 – The Presidency

- Presidential Succession Act/25th Amendment
- Formal qualifications to be President
- How presidential electors are chosen
- Maximum number of years a President can serve in office
- Difference between caucuses and primaries
- Political battles during the nomination process
- Purposes of the national convention
- Least number of presidential electors a state can have
- Arguments for and against the electoral college system
- Presidential salary/benefits: necessary?

Ch. 18 – The Federal Court System

- Judicial weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
- Original vs. appellate jurisdiction
- Reason for calling SCOTUS the High Court
- Purposes of the 12 federal courts of appeals
- Term of office for constitutional court judges
- *Marbury v. Madison* (judicial review)
- Differences between constitutional and special courts
- Majority vs. concurring vs. dissenting opinions