Quiz 3 Study Guide
American Government, Fall 2007
North Seattle Community College

Format: The exam will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. There will be 25 fill-in-the-blank questions, each worth 2 points. There will be 5 short answer questions, each worth 10 points. You will have choice on the short answers; that is, I will give you 7 questions, and you will need to answer 5.

Content: The exam will cover material from class as well as from the readings. Below are concepts from the textbook, POV reader, and class discussions that you should be familiar with. The content that is most likely to be the exam is anything discussed in class that is also covered in the reading. The content that is least likely to be on the exam is anything listed below that we did not talk about in class.

Voting and Participation
Concepts from Textbook:
- Voter turnout
- Registration
- Apathy
- Alienation
- Social capital

Concepts from POV readings:
- Wattenberg: how voter turnout is calculated
- Lijphart: arguments for and against compulsory voting
- Ranney: reasons why NOT voting is okay
- Putnam: definition of social capital; examples of the types of evidence he uses to argue that Social capital is declining; the main reason that social capital is declining
- Schudson: reasons why he thinks Putnam is wrong about the decline of social capital

Concepts from Class Discussion:
- Down’s calculus of voting (i.e., that equation that went on the board)
- Expressive benefits

Public Opinion
Concepts from Textbook, Chapter 6:
- Sample vs. population
- Sampling error
- Ideology
- Liberals vs. conservatives vs. libertarians

Concepts from POV readings:
- Morris: reasons why he believes the Internet will enhance democracy
- Ornstein and Mitchell: dangers of “cyberdemocracy”

Concepts from Class Discussion:
- Ways to measure the intensity of public opinion
- Ways to measure the representativeness of public opinion
Straw polls
Literary digest example
Random sampling
Sources of systematic error in public opinion polls
Push polls
Reasons why aggregate public opinion is stable
Opinion leadership

Political Parties

Concepts from Textbook:
- Split ticket
- Two-party system vs. multiparty system
- Proportional representation

Concepts from Class Discussion:
- Framers’ views toward parties
- Origins of modern Democratic Party
- Origins of modern Republican Party
- Reasons why we have parties
- Reasons why we have two major parties
- Proportional representation
- Instant runoff voting
- Median voter theorem
- Contributions of third parties

Interest Groups

From Textbook:
- Free rider problem
- Inside lobbying
- Outside lobbying
- Political action committee (PAC)
- Material incentives (same as material benefits)
- Purposive incentives (the same concept as expressive benefits)

From POV Readings:
- Domhoff: power elite, revolving interlocks (p. 137)
- Birnbaum: why Social Security and Terri Schiavo became top government priorities

From Class Discussion:
- Definition of interest group
- Pluralism
- Schattschneider’s critique of pluralism
- Olson’s critique: why groups are unlikely to form
- Selective incentives: material, solidary, and expressive benefits
- Insider tactics