Voting, Elections, Campaigning, Mass Media & Special Interest Groups

**Voting and Elections (Chapter 13 in the text)**

* What is a Caucus?
* Know the difference between Open, Closed, Blanket, and Run-off Primaries
* Describe the nominating process
* Who determines the dates for when presidential primaries are held?
* Be able to explain Referendum, Recall, and Initiative.
* What are the most important factors affecting voter turnout?
* Which groups have the highest voter turnout? The lowest?
* Describe how the Electoral College works
* The Voting Rights Act of 1965
* 12th, 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments
* What are the forms of political participation? What is the most common? What are the unconventional forms?
* Describe the different ads used by candidates

**Campaign Process (Chapter 14 in the text)**

* Describe the structure of a political campaign team including the titles and their duties
* PAC’s influences on elections
* 527 Committees
* *Buckley v. Valeo*
* *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*
* Know the differences between Hard and Soft money
* Describe the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act
* What steps has Congress taken to limit campaign contributions? Be able to list arguments for and against this.
* How does a candidate get public funds? Can they spend their own money?
* How does the Electoral College change the way that parties run their campaigns?

**SIGS and Mass Media (Chapter 15 & 16 in the text)**

* Federalist #10 and faction. How do you control it?
* What is an interest group? What are the theories that explain how interest groups form and how they influence public policy?
* What is an Earmark?
* How do Interest groups influence public policy (multiple methods)?
* Lobbying
* Political Action Committees
* Amicus Curiae Briefs
* Free-rider problem
* How do most Americans receive their news today?
* *New York Times vs. USA Supreme Court Case*
* What is prior restraint and what Supreme Court case limits this?
* The Telecommunications Act of 1996
* What are the down sides of interest groups?
* The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007
* Yellow Journalism and muckraking
* What is Media Consolidation?
* The Mass Media – what does it include? (different forms of Media)
* Who was the first president to effectively use radio?
* Who covers news in Congress? What is their channel?
* What is the debate over net neutrality?
* How is the internet effecting journalism?
* Lobbying disclosure act
* How does the media impact Agenda-setting