

The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity
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Unit/Chapter	Supplemental Reading Assignments
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 1 / Chapter 1 (The Study of Government) Pages 2 to 20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chapter 20 (American Democracy: Then and Now) Pages 511 to 524</p>	<p>#2 Cynthia Farrar – <i>Dinner with Democracy</i> (Pages 5 to 13) In <i>Dinner with Democracy</i>, Cynthia Farrar redefines the concept of participatory / deliberative democracy. Rather being “mob rule”, Farrar contends that democracy means “continued engagement, imagination, persuasion, openness . . . (that) can be accomplished only through the process of interaction between the self and others.” What are the benefits, and challenges, of a common civics education in which different viewpoints are given an opportunity to be expressed in a structured setting? While discussing politics in a structured setting may be educational and informative, can the exchange of ideas translate into real world compromises? Why or why not?</p> <p>#4 C. Wright Mills - <i>The Power Elite</i> (Pages 21 to 28) C. Wright Mills believed that the Power Elite, rather than setting up explicit organizations who membership is strictly limited to its own members, would rather use existing organizations or institution to further their agenda and to minimize attracting unwanted scrutiny. Do you think this is still the case today? Provide examples/evidence to support your conclusion.</p> <p>#5 Richard Zweigenhaft & G. William Domhoff - <i>Diversity in the Power Elite</i> (Pages 29 to 38) According to Richard Zweigenhaft and G. William Domhoff, the Power Elite’s new outward diversity (i.e. – the inclusion of minorities and women) is really a façade. While newer members of the Power Elite may be diverse, they still retain the mindset and attitudes of the older, white males that have supplanted. In essence, outwardly they look different but their attitudes and outlooks are nearly identical to the elites of old. Do you believe that Zweigenhaft and Domhoff’s thesis is an accurate assessment? Why or why not?</p> <p>#6 Robert Dahl - <i>Who Governors? And a Preface to Democratic Theory</i> (Pages 39 to 45) Robert Dalh contends that public policy is made by a “steady appeasement of relatively small groups.” Does his assessment help to explain what is commonly considered <i>hyper-pluralism</i> or <i>gridlock</i> in governmental action and policy formation? Provide examples to illustrate the real world consequences of trying to make every faction “happy” while trying to formulate public policy for a nation over 300 million people.</p> <p>#9 Robert Bellah & Others - <i>Habits of the Heart</i> (Pages 59 to 66) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “In a healthy society the private and public are not mutually exclusive, not in competition with each other. They are, instead, two halves of a whole, two poles of a paradox. They work together dialectically, helping to create and nurture one another.” What was Bellah trying to get at in regards to <i>individualism</i> and the <i>nature of civil society</i>?</p>

<p align="center">Unit 1 / Chapter 20 (American Democracy: Then and Now) Pages 511 to 524</p>	<p align="center">(Photocopied Copies – from <i>A Primer of Politics</i>)</p> <p>#1 - The Teaching of Niccolo Machiavelli In order to achieve a desired goal, a politician / leader / government official may have to be unethical, untruthful, or even commit an illegal act for the greater good. Niccolo Machiavelli believed that this was a form of amoral pragmatism that was essential for effective leadership; do you agree or disagree? Do the ends justify the means? Use historical and/or political examples to help frame your reply to the question.</p> <p>#4 - The Value & Vice of Power What aspect of power, either coercion or persuasion, could best be used to get society to support the actions of the government? Why is the context of a particular situation/crisis essential to understanding which choice a government may choose to embrace?</p> <p>#28 - The Pragmatics and Demonic of Power: What Good and Evil Can Government Do Would Niccolo Machiavelli understand and/or support the rule of Joseph Stalin in light of the economic accomplishments he was able to achieve in the U.S.S.R. prior to World War II? Within the context of Joseph Stalin's rule either refute or support the following statement – “the ends justify the means.”</p>
<p align="center">Unit 1 / Chapter 4 (American Political Culture) Pages 76 to 94</p>	<p>#1 Alexis de Tocqueville - <i>Democracy in America</i> (Pages 3 to 6) Since it's colonization, Americans have been blessed with vast expanses of easily obtainable land. This social and economic reality was radically different from most of the nations of the Old World (Europe) in which feudalism limited ownership of land to a particular class of people. Speculate why the physical abundance of natural resources in North America enabled the ideals of equality and democracy to take root and flourish first in the colonies and later in the independent United States. Also consider if American political culture would have been different if North America had not been as bountiful for its early settlers and immigrants. Would democracy still have flourished?</p> <p>#3 James Davison Hunter – <i>The Enduring Culture War</i> (Pages 14 to 20) Local and national elites often “frame issues in stark terms, take uncompromising positions, and delegitimize their opponent.” This clash of elites and “cultural warriors” often reduces the influence of the majority of Americans who would prefer greater reason, compromise, and harmony. 1) Speculate how new technology (Internet, Blogs, Social Media) are contributing to the growth of factionalism / hyper-pluralism. 2) Speculate how this polarized discourse is impacting American democracy for better or worse in the 21st century.</p> <p>#7 Cornel West - <i>Race Matters</i> (Pages 46 to 53) America has a long and painful history when it comes to issues of race. While some hailed the election of Barack Obama as an indicator that America had moved beyond race as a societal divider, others pointed to the election of Donald Trump that the racial divide was as large as ever. Which perspective is the most accurate in light of recent history? Using examples highlighted in the news or in current events, postulate about the state of race relations in the United States in the 21st century.</p> <p>#8 Michael Kammen - <i>People of Paradox</i> (Pages 54 to 58) In your opinion, how does the rest of the world view the United States with the context of the many contradictions, ambiguities, and dualistic nature of American culture? In particular, consider how more traditional cultures view the role/impact of American culture on the world stage and why it may be</p>

perceived as an existential threat to their own culture.

<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 2 / Chapter 2 (The Constitution) Pages 21 to 48</p>	<p>#11 – Richard Hofstadter - <i>The American Political Tradition</i> (Pages 79 to 84) How did the Framers of the U.S. Constitution reconcile the type of government they created with their perceived nature of man? In essence, explain how the fear of democracy lent to the crafting of the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>#13 – David Brian Robertson – <i>The Constitution and America’s Destiny</i> (Pages 90 to 98) According to David Brian Robertson, “the delegates who made the Constitution were first and foremost politicians, not philosophers, political scientists, or plundering speculators.” Was the skill set of the politician more critical in the crafting of the U.S. Constitution than the wisdom and insights of political philosophers and historians? Why or why not.</p> <p># 10 – James Madison - <i>The Federalist 10 and 51</i> (Pages 67 to 78) One of the greatest concerns that Madison had in drafting the new constitution was the dangerous and divisive nature of factions. Madison realized that factions could not be removed – only their effects could be limited. What did he mean with this assessment? How does a federal republic limit the impact of factions and help to preserve unity throughout the nation despite its many differences? Provide specific examples to support your argument.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 2 / Chapter 3 (Federalism) Pages 49 to 79</p>	<p>#15 - James Madison - <i>The Federalist 39 and 46</i> (Pages 111 to 115) According to James Madison, what are the distinct and essential characteristics of the republican form of government? What is key in Madison’s claim that the establishment of the new Constitution would be a federal, and not a national constitution? Do you agree or disagree with his conclusions? Why or why not?</p> <p>#16 – Andrew Karch – <i>Democratic Laboratories</i> (Pages 116 to 122) Karch argues today that technological advancements in communication technology allows for the rapid diffusion of ideas and policies amongst the various states governments. The upside of this rapid dispersion of knowledge is that it allows new ideas and approaches to be considered by other state officials dealing with their own state problems. The downside, however, is the expectation of always “chasing the latest trend” or “great new idea” without any consideration given for potential long-term consequences or even if the idea in itself is needed. In balance, is it always good to have these “ideas” coming in a fast or furious manner or would it be better to have a “go slow approach” which involves evaluating long terms ramifications of any dynamic changes before actually adopting them? Within this debate consider whether the Federal government should act as a “throttle” or as a “break” when it comes to state innovation by either encouraging or discouraging it?</p> <p>#17 – Erin Ryan – <i>Federalism and the Tug of War Within</i> (Pages 123 to 132) Federalism allows political flexibility and local preferences when it comes to policy choices and state sponsored legislation and regulations. However, environmental issues, especially those surrounding air or water quality, often have a national / international impact well beyond the political boundaries on an individual state. Is the challenge of environmental protection as we know it simply too big of a problem to have a piecemeal, state-level approach to the problem? Why or why not. Explain.</p> <p>#18 – Lori Riverstone-Newell – <i>Cities, Public Policy, and the Dilemmas of Federalism</i> (Pages 133 to 138) While federalism permits the states the authority to experiment with policy</p>

	<p>and legislation to suit their individual needs, this same degree of sovereignty is not usually extended to local governments (cities, counties, towns, etc.). What are the benefits and pitfalls of cities choosing to adopt policies contrary to state and national law (i.e. – sanctuary cities for illegal immigrants, decriminalization of marijuana, etc.). Why haven't state and the national government been more forceful when dealing with this local defiance? Are these actions a symbol of a robust form of federalism thriving in America or a manifest symptom of hyper-pluralism and parochialism run amuck?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 2 / Chapter 18 (Economic Policy) Pages 461 to 480</p>	<p>#75 – Milton Friedman – <i>Free to Choose</i> (Pages 607 to 612) According to Friedman's assessment, government, like power, in itself is not the problem. Rather, in the hands of men, government is often viewed as a tool to solve every problem and address every need regards to the cost of individual freedom. In the end, this massive entity becomes a juggernaut destroying personal freedom under the guise of the "common good". Friedman advocates a return to restraint, to smaller, limited government rather than creating a giant social-welfare safety net for society. However, in the 21st century would it really be possible to return to limited government in which American citizens would tolerate a "hands off" government? Make a pro or con argument about the feasibility of adopting Friedman's views in today's society.</p> <p>#76 – David Wessel – <i>Red Ink</i> (Pages 613 to 620) David Wessel outlines the scope and depth of America's fiscal problems with special emphasis place on the growing national debt. Gauging the enormity of the problem, Wessel does not offer the reader a formula to solve these huge national problems. After reading the article, propose some steps that could be taken to address this dire social, political, and economic situation. Next, assess the likelihood of any of your recommendations being adopted by the government. Finally, predict what the economic future may hold for the United States in light of our national debt.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 3 / Chapter 8 (Political Participation) Pages 171 to 188</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Photocopied Copies Provided</p> <p>American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings</p> <p>#5.1 - Micah L. Sifry - "Finding the Lost Voters" Micah Sifry argues that voter turnout would increase if party candidates ran progressive and populist campaigns to get more people actively engaged with the political process. Is it likely that parties in the future will take his advice? Why or why not? Consider that both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders employed this approach in the 2016 election cycle. Do you have any additional suggestions that might help to increase voter participation?</p> <p>#5.2 - Michael Schudson - "Voting Rites: Why We Need a New Concept of Citizenship" What does Michael Schudson mean by "the burden of Progressivism"? Does the Progressive model of citizenship seem unrealistic when applied to today's voters? Why or why not? Have you personally experienced the "burden of Progressivism" even though you probably have not yet voted?</p> <p>#5.3 - Robert D. Putnam - "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" What is "social capital" and how is it linked to politics? What indicators suggest that social capital is in decline in the United States? How could this decline impact politics and government in the future?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 3 / Chapter 9 (Political Parties) Pages 189 to 212</p>	<p>#58 – Matt Barreto & Gary Segura – <i>Latino-America</i> (Pages 455 to 460) The Latino "wave" is upon the political landscape of America as Latinos are expected to become the majority race sometime by the mid-21st century. The authors contend the Democratic Party has failed to fully harness this untapped power to maximize their electoral advantage. For Republicans, failure to attract enough non-whites to their party may hinder them from having success in the future. Speculate what will Trump's legacy be in regards to the pivotal role Latino-Americans will play in the future of American elections? Speculate / predict the future of both parties with the rise of Latino-America.</p> <p>#68 – Robert Brownstein – <i>The Second Civil War</i> (Pages 551 to 557) The central obstacle to more effective action against our most pressing problems is an unrelenting polarization of America's political parties. That polarization has divided Washington, and the nation, into hostile, even irreconcilable camps. Has partisan rivalry and ideological entrenchment undermined any chance of compromise in Washington, D.C. on a whole host of public policy issues? What will be the long-term ramification of hyper partisanship on the two major parties?</p> <p>#69 – Bill Bishop – <i>The Big Sort</i> (Pages 558 to 565) Bill Bishop lays out a compelling argument that the United States has sorted itself into like-minded niches, or tribes, that hold common values and worldviews and avoid interacting with those who share an opposing perspective. It seems that the Madisonian fear of factionalism is now a reality in the new age of tribalism. What may be the long-term ramifications of this for the future of the United States? Have we become too diverse, too different in our worldviews and attitudes that we choose to self-segregate to be around affirming like-minded individuals rather than interacting with those who may be ideologically different?</p> <p>#70 – William Frey – <i>Diversity Explosion</i> (Pages 566 to 574) William Frey's prediction of future Democratic wins due to shifting demographics was recently called into question. Frey failed to predict the rise of Donald Trump or the reemergence of the angry, disgruntled working class long overlooked by Democratic elites. Does political earthquake serve</p>

	<p>as a cautionary tale about making assumptions about which political party may benefit from shifting demographics? Speculate why Frey may have miscalculated the success of the Democratic Party to date.</p> <p>#71 – Robert Putnam & David Campbell – <i>American Grace</i> (Pages 575 to 582) How can religious pluralism coexist with religious polarization? Does the “God Gap” between Democrats and Republicans mean greater polarization on issues such as abortion and gay marriage? Does religion in itself cause polarization or has it more to do with individuals using religion as a justification for the actions they take or positions they advocate?</p> <p>#72 – Linda Killian – <i>The Swing Vote</i> (Pages 583 to 592) According to Linda Killian, a large segment of the American electorate would be in the so-called mushy middle, sharing a mix of conservative economic and socially liberal viewpoints. Despite the moderate predisposition of this demographic, both political parties seem unwilling to embrace moderate candidates to attract these voters consistently. Instead, the pathway to the nomination is often playing to the extremes of the ideological spectrum. Why is that the case? Speculate what role the presidential primary / caucus systems has had on this neglect of the moderate voter.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 3 / Chapter 10 (Campaigns & Elections) (Pages 213 to 243)</p>	<p>#33 – Samuel Popkin – <i>The Candidate</i> (Pages 246 to 252) A presidential campaign can sometimes go wrong when it must go right. To win, a candidate must create a strong supporting team to facilitate any chance of success. The team will help a presidential hopeful to be agile, to balance conflicting demands, and have the endurance to handle the setback when things don’t go as planned. If successful, some of these “team members” will accompany the new president to the White House. However, many do not. Speculate why some individuals may be ideally suited for a campaign run yet can not transition effectively into helping a new administration govern. You may want to research some of the following individuals to provide you some context for your response – James Carville (Clinton), Sean Spicer (Trump), and Steve Bannon (Trump).</p> <p>#60 – Dan Scala - <i>Stormy Weather</i> (Pages 471 to 477) The long and grueling primary calendar quickly reduces the competing field of candidates from a dozen or more individuals to maybe the top two or three candidates for each party’s nomination. In order for a candidate to have any chance of success they often need a bounce coming out of the Iowa caucus, and especially New Hampshire primary. How could the party primary system be made “fairer” and allow a candidate to be selected from a larger cross section of society that represents the broader spectrum of values and beliefs that are held by the American people rather than utilizing the current system?</p> <p>#61 – Robert Boatright – <i>Getting Primaried</i> (pages 478 to 486) According to Robert Boatright, “getting primaried” – or just the threat of getting primaried – only adds to the further polarization of party politics in the U.S. Is the quest by outside groups and party bases to weed out the non-ideological pure candidates a major factor in gridlock today? Explain.</p> <p>#62 – Dennis Johnson - <i>No Place for Amateurs</i> (Pages 487 to 496) Has the rise of political hired guns to run campaigns and formulate policy either elevated or diminished the democratic nature of our political system? Does this new reality encourage or discourage greater political participation from average citizens? Explain / elaborate.</p>

#63 – David Mark – *Going Dirty* (Pages 497 to 505)

The issues and themes of negative campaigning will vary by decade and era, but not the use of those tactics by ambitious politicians. According to David Mark, voters should be given as many facts about potential office holders as possible so they can make up their own minds about what is, and what is not important. Do you agree? What if the information being presented is distorted, misleading, or not even relevant? How is the voting public to know what to believe and how are they to discern what is important and what is trivial?

#64 – Sasha Issenberg – *The Victory Lab* (Pages 506 to 517)

The author refers to the letters that were sent to thousands of Coloradoans voters as a useful weapon in the “politics of shame.” Rather than broad appeals to turn out voters, the campaign of Bennet instead used micro-targeting to guilt tripped reluctant voters by reminding them to consider the potential consequence of their electoral inaction. Surprisingly, the ploy worked! Do you think this style of micro-targeting could again be effective or be applied at the national level? Why or why not. Why are people more responsive to passive aggressive “simplicity” rather than Madison Avenue advertising that tries to inspire?

#65 – Kenneth Vogel – *Big Money* (Pages 518 to 527)

A few dozen rich donors might now have the influence that the parties' nominees will be and what platforms they could embrace. What impact will the big money donors have on America's party system in the future, especially after the *Citizens United* decision? Is there a danger that a single individual or small group could fundamentally alter a party's platform or choice of candidates based upon their own personal agenda? Is this a danger to democracy or simply a by-product of if?

<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 4 / Chapter 7 (Public Opinion) Pages 152 to 170</p>	<p>#49 – V.O. Key – <i>Public Opinion and American Democracy</i> (Pages 389 to 394) According to V.O. Key, why do politicians (<i>i.e. – political elites</i>) still value and try to gauge public opinion even if they tend not to trust it? Is there a danger of ignoring the masses (<i>i.e. – majoritarians</i>)? Could this help explain what happened with the rise of Donald Trump in 2016? Why is competition essential amongst the various political elites in order for democracy to flourish?</p> <p>#50 – Thomas Cronin - <i>Direct Democracy</i> (Pages 395 to 402) Does direct democracy measures such as initiative, referendums, and recalls undermine government stability and the legitimacy of a duly elected republican government? Does the mass of people who make up society have the necessary knowledge, wisdom, and experience to play such a crucial role in government decision making? Why or why not? What would the Framers of the U.S. Constitution thought of these expressions of the popular will?</p> <p>#52 – Cass Sunstein – <i>Republic.com 2.0</i> (Pages 411 to 417) Cass Sunstein focuses on the often overlooked but important role of “cyber niches” on the Internet and their impact on political discourse in the U.S. Rather than serving as a “common carrier” of information that was prevalent during the era of broadcast news, the Internet encourages the personalized world of information in which individuals may limit self-exposure to a few favorite topics and a few points of views. This, in turn, has diminished the impact of news as an agent of socialization that provides a “shared experience” for a diverse society. Is Sunstein correct in concluding that the Internet may be damaging democracy by encouraging polarization and narrowcasting to partisan preferences that are tailored to the viewers’ preferences?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 4 / Chapter 11 (Interest Groups) Pages 244 to 267</p>	<p>#55 – E.E. Schattschneider - <i>The Semi-Sovereign People</i> (Pages 430 to 434) What is the difference between pressure politics and party politics? Are pressure groups the universal basic ingredient of all political situations and government action? Yes or no. Does their existence help to explain how anything related to governing or governmental action actually gets done? To quote an old American proverb – <i>The squeaky wheel gets the grease</i>. Explain / elaborate.</p> <p>#56 – Anthony Nownes – <i>Interest Groups in American Politics</i> (Pages 435 to 448) What steps, if any, could be put in place to end the “revolving door” in government? Would it be fair to ban former government officials (now private citizens) from seeking this type of employment once they leave government? Could this, in turn, keep many well qualified people from serving in government since it would limit their future economic well-being because of their public service?</p> <p>#57 – <i>Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission</i>, Justice Stevens’ Concurrent and Dissent, Commentary by Frank Fruchtmann Jr. (Pages 449 to 454) Under <i>Citizens United</i>, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5 to 4 majority, allowed corporation and unions to spend unlimited funds on elections under the protection of the Freedom of Speech. Critics contend that a corporation is not a “person” and should not be afforded the same First Amendment protection as an actual citizen. Did the Court, in your opinion, make the correct decision? Why or why not? Explain.</p>

	<p>#59 – Mark Leibovich – <i>This Town</i> (Pages 461 to 467) According to the disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, “the best way for lobbyists to influence people on Capitol Hill was to casually suggest they join their firm after they completed their public service. The moment I said that to them, or any of our staff said that to them, we owned them.” Based upon this quote, has the pervasive nature of lobbying with its undue influence corrupted America’s democracy? Why or why not? What would be the counterclaim against this assertion? Explain.</p>
<p align="center">Unit 4 / Chapter 12 (The Media) Pages 268 to 295</p>	<p>#51 – Larry Sabato - <i>Feeding Frenzy</i> (Pages 403 to 410) Why has the press become the proverbial “pit bull” when reporting the human failings or personal missteps of candidates seeking public office? How does the author define the concept of “feeding frenzy”? What are the long-term implications for those who are seeking public office or those who already holding elected office?</p> <p>#53 – Diana Mutz – <i>How the Mass Media Divides Us</i> (Pages 418 to 423) Diana Mutz laments the growth of uncivil political discourse (especially on TV and the radio). Political debates, in her opinion, have become too extreme, too confrontational, and too coarse which in turn has added to the nation’s polarization and unwillingness to consider the positions of the opposition in a rational manner. Mutz admits that calm discussion of politics (ex. – C-SPAN) is inherently uninteresting to most Americans. The networks create these political “Shout Shows” (i.e. – <i>Hardball, Hannity</i>) to boost viewership and to generate profits. Do you think these types of shows are especially damaging when it comes to majoritarian viewership? Why or why not? Do you believe political elites, who view these shows, are more immune to their impact? Why or why not.</p>

**Unit 5 /
Chapter 14
(The Presidency)
Pages 331 to 370**

#14 – Mark Rozell – *Executive Privilege* (Pages 99 to 110)

Proponents and critics of executive privilege argue that the practice is either undemocratic or essential for effective executive leadership. That debate may never be resolved. The challenge for presidential leadership and decision making in the 21st century in the rise of social media and the loss of almost all personal privacy in the digital age. There may come a time, in the not too distant future, where every discussion and every debate in the White House is open for scrutiny by the media, the legislative branch, and the public. Speculate how this changing reality will transform the presidency and whether it will either enhance transparency or hinder candid discussion and debate in the White House.

#27 – Richard Neustadt - *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents* (Pages 195 to 201)

Why is persuasive power an essential ingredient for successful presidential leadership? How did persuasive power help such presidents as FDR, Kennedy, Reagan, Clinton, and Obama? Does our current president have the necessary skill set to effectively persuade the American people to support a policy or agenda? Why or why not.

#28 – Arthur Schlesinger - *The Imperial Presidency* (Pages 202 to 208)

Did the presidency of Richard Nixon reveal the dangers of presidential power or did it simply reaffirm the long held belief that the safeguards built into the Constitution to prevent the abuse of power actually work? Is the “Imperial Presidency” still possible today? Why or why not?

#29 – Thomas Cronin & Michael Genovese - *The Paradoxes of the American Presidency* (Pages 209 to 219)

Which of the nine paradoxes of the American presidency appears to have the most profound impact upon the executive office? Why? Elaborate.

#30 – Craig Rimmerman - *The Rise of the Plebiscitary Presidency* (Pages 220 to 228)

What are the characteristics of the plebiscitary presidency? What factors have lead to the development of the modern plebiscitary president? Is it realistic or wise to embrace the concept of the plebiscitary president within the context of today’s complex political world or changing global landscape?

#31 – Jack Goldsmith – *Power and Constraint* (Pages 229 to 236)

It seems when a newly elected presidential candidate transitions into the office of Presidency that a healthy measure of humility and pragmatism accompany that transition. The boastful promises of the campaign trail must now find footing in the reality of governing the nation. To ensure a boastful president tempers their promises and outlooks, a modern synopticon has developed to reign in sweeping presidential action. Is this synopticon working today as the author believes or is this “check and balance” breaking down? Elaborate upon your conclusion.

#32 – Kenneth Mayer - *With the Stroke of a Pen* (Pages 237 to 245)

Should the president have the ability to issue executive orders without some oversight or approval of the other two branches of government? What are the dangers of allowing the president to wield this type of power? Do critics overstate the concerns over executive orders? Use modern examples of how presidents used executive orders to move their policies preferences forward when Congress was unwilling to address the president’s concerns or agenda priorities. You may want to research the controversy surrounding President Obama at the DACA (Deferred Action on Child Arrivals) debate.

<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 5 / Chapter 19 (Foreign & Military Policy) Pages 481 to 510</p>	<p>#80 – Samuel Huntington - <i>The Clash of Civilizations</i> (Pages 649 to 658) As the world shifts from a unipolar (one superpower) world to a multipolar (multiple power centers) the hegemony (or dominance) of the United States continues to be challenged by a variety of emerging nations and non-nation state players. 1) Why is it important that the United States simply not to cut its losses and write off the rest of the world and 2) What impact could diminished American influence have on the rest of the world?</p> <p>#81 – Fareed Zakaria – <i>The Post-American World</i> (Pages 659 to 668) Zakaria lays out for the reader the transforming world of the 21st century in which the United States role as a superpower will diminish as other global actors rise in importance. Despite this, he argues forcefully that the U.S. must continue to engage with the world and become a global broker in settling disputes and helping others to reach compromises. Despite his calls, it can be argued that the reemergence of “American First” domestic policies will actually push the U.S. in a more isolationist direction. As the 21st century unfolds, which path will the nation take based upon the wishes of the American people? Why?</p> <p>#82 – Chalmers Johnson – <i>Blowback</i> (Pages 669 to 675) Chalmers Johnson contends that the U.S. military, mostly unaccountable for its actions overseas, has been the primary source of blowback against the United States. Is this a fair assessment or is the military simply following the directives of the political leadership of the United States? Explain.</p> <p>#83 – Joseph Nye - <i>Soft Power</i> (Pages 676 to 684) Joseph Nye contends that soft power is just as valuable as hard power in molding world opinion and creating stability. Many critics, however, argue that the United States should not be worried about “global popularity” when making foreign policy decisions. Should more emphasis be placed on soft power or should the United States continue to rely on hard power (or force) to achieve our foreign policy objectives. Explain.</p> <p>#84 – Richard Haas – <i>Foreign Policy Begins At Home</i> (Pages 685 to 690) According to Richard Haas, while the world struggles with a variety of problems from war to famine, it is increasingly problematic for the United States to always try to help others. Haas contends that the inability of America to get its domestic house in order precludes it from trying to help the rest of the world from doing just that. Can the United States afford to disengage from the world and simply hope for the best? Why or why not? What might we learn from the 20th century about American disengagement from global affairs?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Unit 5 / Chapter 15 (The Bureaucracy) Pages 371 to 397</p>	<p>#34 – Paul Light – <i>A Government Ill Executed</i> (Pages 255 to 262) Paul Light paints a damning assessment of the federal government’s bureaucratic apparatus (while somewhat tempering his assessment of the actual bureaucrats (government employees)). Is Light correct in his assertions or is his broad stroke condemnation lacking in context or perspective? Either support or refute Light’s thesis.</p> <p>#35 – Cornelius Kerwin & Scott Furlong – <i>Rulemaking</i> (Pages 263 to 271) Congress legislates (make laws), Presidents execute (or carry out the law), and the Courts adjudicate (interpret the meaning of laws). Despite this framework of government, it is the federal bureaucracy that creates the rules by which laws are implemented and carried out. Rather than acting in isolation, the federal bureaucracy must engage with the vast spectrum of</p>

American pluralism (educated & uneducated, reformers & contrarians, etc.). Each of these competing forces has the goal of ensuring their priorities are taken into account and accommodated as the rules to implement policies and laws are hashed out. Is this simply a bi-product of “democracy in action” or a more telling symptom of hyper-pluralism in 21st century America in which government action is always called into question? Explain.

#36 – James Q. Wilson – *Bureaucracy* (Pages 278 to 292)

Do you agree or disagree with Wilson’s thesis that bureaucratic inefficiency is usually acceptable for services the government provides? Why or why not? Explain. Why must the government operate under a different set of rules compared to the private sector?

#37 – Robert Reich – *Locked in the Cabinet* (Pages 278 to 289)

(Attention: The use of a profane word appears on page 282. Please do not read this article if it offends your sensibilities. Thanks.)

When it comes to running a government bureaucracy why is temperament, flexibility, and having a sense of humility (along with humor) essential in order to have any degree or success (or sanity)?

<p>Unit 6 / Chapter 13 (The Congress) Pages 296 to 330</p>	<p>#19 – David Mayhew – <i>Congress - The Electoral Connection</i> (Pages 141 to 144) Of the three activities mentioned by Mayhew (advertising, credit claiming, and position taking), which is the most effective? Why? Why do most politicians and public officials employ all three activities?</p> <p>#20 – Richard Fenno - <i>Home Style</i> (Pages 150 to 155) Why is the “presentation of self” for a member of Congress important back in their home district? What is the difference in the roles of a “delegate” and a “trustee” and how does that affect how an elected official approaches their job?</p> <p>#21 – Steven Smith – <i>The Senate Syndrome</i> (Pages 151 to 157) Was the adoption of the “nuclear option” (a procedural change to undermine Rule 22 that required a 3/5ths vote for cloture in the Senate) a wise decision by Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid? Would permanently ending the 60-vote cloture rule diminish the significance of the Senate as a safeguard of minority rights? Should the Senate operate under the same parliamentary rules as the House of Representatives to remove a long-standing obstacles and obstructions to the passage of timely legislation by the majority party?</p> <p>#22 – Michele Swers – <i>Women in the Club</i> (Pages 158 to 166) Michele Swers outlines the challenges female senators face when tackling issues of national defense and defense spending. Do you believe that as American population grows and diversifies, and women are elected to more public offices, that the days of the Senate being an “all boys club” will come to an end? How that might impact defense appropriations in the 21st century?</p> <p>#23 – Paul Straboin - <i>Pork: A Time-Honored Tradition Lives On</i> (Pages 167-169) What are both the positive and negative effects of pork? How does pork highlight the conflict for the legislature as representatives of local interest but yet still being part of a larger national legislative body?</p> <p>#24 – John Ellwood & Eric Patashnik - <i>In Praise of Pork</i> (Pages 170-174) Ellwood and Patashnik contend that pork is a necessity for government. What do you think? Either support or refute their thesis by providing evidence cited from their article.</p> <p>#26 – Chuck McCutcheon & David Mark – <i>Dog Whistles, Walk Backs, and Washington Handshakes</i> (Pages 181 to 192) In this insightful (and somewhat humorous) essay, McCutcheon and Mark list numerous examples of jargon, slang, and bluster used inside the Washington beltway. The author claims that public servants can be “confusing as hell” and indecipherable to most outsiders. Is it feasible to educate the American people about this political vernacular or should media outlets attempts to clarify (and put into context) the verbiage of our elected leaders?</p>
<p>Unit 6 / Chapter 17 (Domestic Policy) Pages 428 to 260</p>	<p>#73 – Michael Harrington - <i>The Other America</i> (Pages 593 to 597) Michael Harrington provides an overview of the poor in America as one without hope, means, or political / social power. According to Harrington, poverty has afflicted the poor’s soul, crushing hope and creating a defeatist culture of hopelessness. He concludes by advocating for the Federal government to serve as the primary entity to abolish poverty and restore hope in the U.S. Yet despite his plea, Americans in general still disdain many social welfare programs like welfare and food stamps. Most</p>

Americans would claim they are “middle class” regardless of their income bracket. Why has the calls for more socialized programs to end poverty fallen on deaf ears in the United States? What does this say about American political ideology and our worldview of poverty in general?

#74 – Joseph Stiglitz – *The Price of Inequality* (Pages 598 to 606)

According to Stiglitz, underneath the economic inequality in society lies political inequality. Things are the way they are because the few who are wealthy dominate the political system. Is Stiglitz correct? If so, cite examples of how wealth may be correlated to political power in the United States. If Stiglitz is incorrect in his assertion, cite examples where the less affluent segments of society have impacted or changed public policy.

#78 – Steven Cohen – *Understanding Environmental Policy* (Pages 629 to 636)

Author Steven Cohen uses the crisis surrounding the growth and disposal of New York’s solid waste as one of the challenges with formulating and implementing sound environmental policy. Within the framework of federalism, should these types of issues be dealt with by the national government or left to the state or local governments to figure out? Lay out a compelling argument for your viewpoint by using data and examples notes in Cohen’s article.

#79 – Sasha Abramsky – *The American Way of Poverty* (Pages 637 to 646)

After reading the personal accounts of poverty why do you think the popular perception of lazy, handout-seeking people still persists amongst most Americans? Is it still possible today with hard work, grit, and determination to escape the cycle of poverty in the United States? Why or why not? Explain.

**Unit 7 /
Chapter 16
(The Judiciary)
Pages 398 to 427**

#38 – Alexander Hamilton - *Federalist #78* (Pages 293 to 297)

What reasons does Alexander Hamilton outline in *Federalist #78* that the Judiciary is the most important of all three branches (and the least dangerous)? Do you agree or disagree with Hamilton's conclusions?

#39 – David O'Brien - *Storm Center* (Pages 298 to 302)

How did politics influence the Court's timing when it came to deciding *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)? "Public opinion serves to curb the Court when it threatens to go too far or too fast in its ruling." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Elaborate.

#40 – David Yalof - *Pursuit of Justices* (Pages 303 to 309)

Today a judicial nominee, especially a Supreme Court nominee, is under the microscope about all facets of their opinions, writings, academic background, associations, and personal history. Some scholars believe that many great past justices would not be able to meet the high bar of expectations set for today's judges and justices. Is this undue scrutiny keeping many well-qualified men and women from being considered by the president for judicial appointments?

#41 – Richard Fallon – *The Dynamic Constitution* (Pages 310 to 318)

What is the "counter-majoritarian" difficulty the Court may find itself in from time to time as it chooses cases to hear and renders decisions impacting society? Although citizens appear to accept a judicial role in interpreting the U.S. Constitution, that acceptance is often contingent on the notion that judicial review will produce good results overall that will benefit society. What may happen if citizens stop viewing the Supreme Court rulings this way?

#42 – Marcia Coyle – *The Roberts Court* (Pages 319 to 330)

- *Bush v. Gore* (2000)
- *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010)
- *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (i.e. – *Obamacare*) (2012)

All three of these landmark cases highlight the danger of the U.S. Supreme Court as appearing to be motivated by politics rather than by constitutional law when rendering decisions. Is it fair to automatically assume that the Supreme Court justices make rulings based upon their own ideological leanings or preferences? Does the lack of moderate voices on the modern bench automatically encourage partisan bashing of any Supreme ruling today?

#43 – Jeffrey Toobin – *The Oath* (Pages 331 to 336)

Sonia Sotomayor believes that women and minorities bring something different to the bench than the traditional judicial appointee. "*Our experiences as women and people of color affect our decisions . . . Personal experiences affect what judges choose to see.*" Do you believe that a president who has the opportunity to select a nominee to the federal bench should take into account the court's gender and racial composition as another component of evaluating a candidate's credentials? Why or why not? Is diversity on the Court essential to ensure all perspectives are taken into account?

**Unit 7 /
Chapters 5 & 6**

**(Civil Liberties)
Pages 95 to 120**

**(Civil Rights)
Pages 121 to 150**

#44 – Anthony Lewis - *Gideon’s Trumpet* (Pages 339 to 348)

Was the decision reached by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gideon v. Wainwright* a validation of American due process or was it a miscarriage of justice in which a liberal court ended up accepting Gideon’s petition? Why or why not?

#45 – Richard Kluger - *Simple Justice* (Pages 349 to 356)

The American judicial system is supposed to be non-partisan (apolitical) in its decision-making. Despite this, Chief Justice Earl Warren seemed unwilling to tackle the touchy situation of race relations because of the potential of negative political fallout. What inference can you make regarding politics, political culture, and the direction of court decisions based upon this reading?

#46 – Charles Ogletree – *All Deliberate Speed* (Pages 357 to 365)

Charles Ogletree makes the case that the *Brown* decision that ended the practice of separate but equal schools was undermined when the Court ruled that desegregation plans should be carried out with “all deliberate speed” (code for “slowdown”). He later cites decisions in *Bakke*, *Gratz*, and *Gutter* as examples of affirmative action in education being under attack. Should the federal government take more assertive / aggressive measures to ensure economically and racially blended schools exist in the United States? Why or why not? What compelling arguments does Ogletree make regarding his position? Does his arguments have any merit? Explain / elaborate.

#47 – *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) and Chief Justice Roberts’ Dissent (Pages 366 to 378)

In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a split Supreme Court (5-4) ruled that the Due Process and Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment extended to all states the rights of same sex couples to marry and have their legal unions recognized by all other states. Justice Kennedy penned the Court’s majority opinion and framed the issue in terms of an evolving societal norm of human rights. The dissent, authored by John Roberts, contended that the Courts had overreached and trespassed on the authority of the state legislatures in deciding what would be best for their citizens. After reading this article / opinion decide which side most the compelling argument? Explain why.

#48 – David Bernstein – *You Can’t Say That!* (Pages 379 to 386)

According to David Bernstein, a new era of political correctness has resulted in a moralistic agenda aimed at eliminating all forms of invidious discrimination (*ex – anything likely to arouse or incur resentment or anger in others*). This, in turn, has created a “chilling effect” on the exercise of civil liberties in the workplace, at universities, in membership organization, and even churches throughout the United States. Do you agree with Bernstein’s assertions or do you think it is necessary to create a safe environment where everyone feels safe and not threatened? Explain.