**Poli Sci Study Guide (Revised) Unit II: Politics of the Nation-State**

**Topics:**

* Political Parties
* Elections & Election Processes
* Electoral Systems and Reform
* Parliamentary System
* Presidential System
* Constitutions and the Courts
* Political Influence
* Protest Movements

**Readings:**

Textbook Chapters 5-7; 12, 14, 15

Eric Mintz, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci, *Politics, Power and the Common* *Good*, 4th ed. (2014)

Class Notes

[www.campbellswebsoup.weebly.com](http://www.campbellswebsoup.weebly.com)

Distributed Handouts

**Terms:**

**Political Parties**

Liberal Party of Canada

Conservative Party of Canada

New Democratic Party of Canada

* ‘Orange Wave’
* Leap Manifesto

Green Party of Canada

Bloc Quebecois

Liberal Party of British Columbia

New Democratic Party of British Columbia

Green Party of British Columbia

Republican Party of the United States

Democratic Party of the United States

**Canadian (Parliamentary) Government**

Division of Powers or Fusion of Powers?

Legislative Branch

* House of Commons
  + Member of Parliament
  + Majority v. Minority
  + Speaker of the House
  + Question Period
  + Caucus
  + party solidarity
  + Law-making?
* Senate
  + ‘patronage’
  + Law-making?

Executive Branch

* the Queen
* Governor-General
  + Speech from the Throne
  + Royal Assent
* Prime Minister
  + Prime Minister’s Office (PMO)
* Cabinet
  + Cabinet Solidarity
  + Ministers of the Crown

**Electoral Systems, Processes & Reform**

Nomination

Campaigns

Voting

* voting behavior too….

First-Past-The-Post

Proportional Representation

Electoral Reform in BC

* Dual Member Proportional (DMP)
* Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)
* Rural-Urban Proportional (RUP)

**American (Presidential) System**

Separation of Powers

Legislative Branch

* House of Representatives
* Senate
  + ‘party discipline?’
  + party gridlock

Executive Branch

* President
  + Head of State or Government?
  + Executive Powers
  + Veto Power
  + Impeachment?
  + White House
* Cabinet

**Constitutions and the Courts (Judiciary Branch)**

Constitution

BNA Act, 1876

Canada Act, 1982

* Constitution Act, 1982
* Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Rights:

* Fundamental Freedoms
* Democratic Rights
* Mobility Rights
* Legal Rights
* Equality Rights
* Official Languages

Application:

* Section 1 – ‘Reasonable Limit?)
* Section 32 – Scope of the Charter
* Section 33 – ‘Notwithstanding Clause’

amending formula

Supreme Court of Canada

* Judicial Activism?
* Case Studies?
  + Morgentaler
  + Rodriguez et al. (‘Right to Die’)

US Constitution

* ‘codified?’
* Articles to Confederation, 1776-1787
  + Federalist v. Anti-Federalist

American Constitution

* Popular sovereignty
* Limited government
* Separation of powers
* Federalism

Articles to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution

* + Bill of Rights (Amendments i-x)

Supreme Court of the USA

**Political Influence/Protest Movements**

civil disobedience

Social/Protest Movements

* #MeToo
* Black Lives Matter
* Idle No More
* Arab Spring
* March of Our Lives

Paragraph Response Study Questions:

* Should BC change its First-Past-The-Post electoral system? If so, what is the best alternative?
* How would you interpret the last BC provincial election? Did voters send a clear message about the direction they want their government to follow?
* Should Canada replace the monarchy with an elected head of state? Explain/Discuss.
* Is there an appropriate balance between legislative and executive power in the USA? Discuss.
* Discuss judicial activism in the context of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Refer to specific cases discussed in the course (i.e. Morgentaler, Rodriguez).
* How important is a political leader to the success of a political party in Canada?
* Voter turnout in Canada has been in steady decline since the 1990s (save for 2015). Discuss.

Essay Response …..You must write a one page, multi-paragraph response to the question!

* **Assess the arguments in favor of presidential and parliamentary systems. Do the Canadian and US examples provide any evidence that would justify one choice or the other? Explain.**

Essay Due: Monday, December 3rd, 2018