

Second Exam Study Guide

To best use this guide, work on defining and understanding the topics presented here. Also, use the first test to help study for the material that will come from that part of the course. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me for further clarifications. – John Todsén (jtodsén@unm.edu)

The Constitution

- *Factors leading up to the move for Independence*
- *The Article of Confederation, strengths, weaknesses, and structure*
- *The Constitutional Convention, the different plans, the compromises and the battle for ratification*
- *The Bill of Rights*
- *Amendment Process and informal Constitutional change*

Federalism

- *3 types of governmental organization, as well as examples*
- *Constitutional basis for federalism*
- *Exclusive, concurrent, and prohibited powers, as well as examples of each*
- *The role of the supremacy clause*
- *Horizontal federalism*
- *McCulloch v. MD, Gibbons v. Ogden and their implications for federalism*
- *The effect of the Civil War on Federalism*
- *Dual, Cooperative and New Federalism, as well as what caused the changes from one to the next*
- *The role of the Supreme Court*

Interest Groups

- *Why do we join groups?*
- *Where does power come from?*
- *Lobbying strategies*
- *Regulating money and lobbyists*
- *Does lobbying contribute to or take away from democracy?*

Political Parties

- *What is a party? (know the differences from a faction and an interest group)*
- *The five functions of political parties*
- *The history of political parties in the US*
- *The three facets of a party*
- *The reasons why we only have two parties*
- *Minor parties and their roles*

Political Opinions and Behavior

- *Opinion polls*
- *Sampling*
- *How has technology changed this?*
- *Political socialization*
- *Where do we get our opinions?*
- *How does Public Opinion affect government?*

Elections

- *Characteristics of candidates*
- *Campaign finance*
- *Three kinds of primaries*
- *The Electoral College*
- *Restrictions on voting*
- *Socioeconomic and psychological factors on vote choice. -- know who tends to vote how*
- *Media and politics -- What sorts of things are considered when the media chooses what to report?*
- *Government regulation of media -- What is the difference between print and electronic media?*

Federalist Papers

#10

- *What is a faction?*
- *The reasons for faction*
- *Ways to reduce the harm of factions (two ways to remove, how to control)*
 - *Why not remove it instead of controlling it?*
 - *Advantages of a large republic in doing this*

#15

- *The central problem with the Articles of Confederation, as Publius sees it*

#30

- *The results of the government not being able to tax (2)*
- *The difference between internal and external taxation, and Publius' opinion on it*

#37

- *The two sets of concerns that the drafters had to balance in the writing of the Constitution (think two sets of two items that each needed balancing)*
- *The “object,” the “organ,” and the “vehicle,” and their importance in this paper*
- *The two blessings that the delegates enjoyed at the Convention*

#51

- *Explain the idea that “Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.”*