

Midterm Examination
Political Science 103
Spring 2011

General Guidelines

Please write an essay for each of the following topics. You are encouraged to use all class notes, readings, and the text. When writing your essay, please make careful use of appropriate referencing to the sources you have used. In addition, papers should consist of the following elements:

Format: 4-6 pages (each response should be at minimum 2 pages in length), typed - font size 12, double-spaced, and spell-checked. In addition list each exam question prior to your essay response.

Citation: For paraphrasing or direct quotations from texts, you may simply reference the material as follows: According to Etheridge, the Constitution “reflected the democratic values in its effort to accommodate broad political participation.” (Etheridge, 279) There is no need for elaborate footnotes/endnotes, or for a bibliography.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism will result in an "F" for the assignment. See the course syllabus for further details.

Lateness: The exam is due by the beginning of class on March 24th. A late paper will be downgraded one letter grade for each day it is late. A paper submitted after the beginning of class on the due date will lose ½ letter grade.

Exam Questions

Be sure to read the questions carefully and address all its aspects, taking into consideration all the relevant material from the course so far.

Provide a well-structured and well-supported answer to two of the following queries.

Question 1. Can you have a democracy without competing political parties? In answering this question, discuss what a political party is, identify and discuss the characteristics of political parties, explain their functions, and discuss the different types of party systems in existence throughout the world. In your opinion, which party system is best and why?

Question 2. Parliamentary and presidential systems are the dominant forms of government throughout the world. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary systems with presidential systems. What are the key similarities and differences? In your opinion, which system is better?

Question 3. What are political ideologies, and why do they matter? What are the core assumptions about the way the world works according to classical liberalism and conservatism? What fundamental assumptions separate these ideologies? In your opinion, which ideology is best and why.

Question 4. Where do political beliefs come from? Are they like other beliefs? What is political culture? Does political culture differ from one society to another? Be sure to provide supporting examples.

Due: March 24, 2011, at the beginning of class.