Test Review

**Is America on the right track or the wrong track? What makes people think so?**

* This is a very biased question depending on the individual.
* Social issues
  + If someone has been a victim of a minority movement (black light movement), then those people will see those speaking up for their cause and say that it is on the right track
* Economy
  + Debt is a big cause of people saying that it is on the wrong track, with an 18 trillion dollar deficit
* Foreign policy
  + The war effort in the middle east and ISIS issues, all biased on the individual

**How do constitutions change? How has ours changed over time?**

* 4 ways
* Revolution
  + Pitch forks and knifes
* Amendments
  + 2/3rds vote in the house
* Interpretation
  + When new values and roles come about
* Construction
  + When a large gathering is called to create a new constitution
* 4 categories of change
  + Expanding or adjusting government power like prohibition
  + Adjusting election rules by changing presidential term limits
  + Modifying government operations like presidential succession and inauguration

**Why is interpretation of the constitution just as important as efforts to amend?**

* Judicial review allows much more flexibility in interpretation and is much more feasible than attempting to amend the constitution, which is an almost impossible thing to do in the first place. For example, looking at the two court cases Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education, both looking at a specific amendment (the 14th amendment) and interpreting it completely different in both cases.
* Strict constructualism and textualism
  + More rigid forms of interpreting the constitution. They look at exactly what the constitution says, and goes by that
* Original intent and modernism
  + Much more flexible. Look at the founding fathers and ask what the intent was of an amendment, and then extending the laws to fit those intents. All based on what they think the founding fathers would say

**What types of sub governments exist in the federal system?**

* Sub governments
  + City councils, tribal governments, state governments

**In what ways are Americans willing to extend rights in principle, but not practice?**

* Looking at poles of Americans based on what they believe in rights, but these poles often don’t reflect exactly what these people will do. This is called the Bradley Effect.
* Bradley Effect:
  + Social desirability effect. On the phone you don’t want to sound like an ass hole, but in the poles you might change your mind

**What are the positives and negatives of federalism?**

* Positive
  + Size of the nation
  + Opportunities for citizens
  + Experimentation
    - Colorado legalizing marijuana
  + Helps respect sub-cultures
* Con
  + Small units dominated by factions
  + Confusion on where to go to when you have a problem
  + Laws not being the same depending on where you go
  + Local governments might not know exactly what they’re doing

**How have different scholars described representation?**

* Ways to tell if your representation is good
  + Service – responding to specific issues in an area
  + Symbolic – do you listen to your people and take what they say to heart
  + Congruence – compares what the representative believes and what the people believe, and seeing if they match

**In what ways is geography irrelevant when interpreting representation?**

* Collective representation – officials represent issues that are broader than their specific district.
* Descriptive representation – the link between underrepresented and their representors

**How have first amendment rights been interpreted over time?**

* First amendment is not very strait forward, such as things like religion in the school
* The world is always changing, so it must be adapted to the changing world
* The Schank case: guy hating on the draft, and got charged with acting against the military (1919)
* New York Times case about the leak of Vietnam War files. Made the government officials look really corrupt, which the public is ok with.

**Why might government want to extend or restrict liberties?**

* Whenever a fear of a threat is present, many are a lot more willing to forfeit these rights, such as after 9/11 government tapping of cellphones. If it is for the safety of the nation

**How have different scholars measured and defined tolerance?**

* When it comes to vague questions such as do you support the first amendment, many people will support the first amendment. But when the questions get more specific (like the issues with the Nazi party trying to speak publicly), many will change their minds.
* It is somewhat of a case-by-case thing
* Could talk about islamophobia, like the guy who brought a clock to school and was arrested

**How have Americans changed in terms of openness to different types of candidates?**

* Openness has increased to certain minority groups such as varying religious groups, except Mormons
* And has increased for other minorities such as LGBTQ candidates, but has not for Muslim and atheist candidates
* Openness has grown gradually for women, but varies depending on the time and situation of the country, like if the country is currently in the war