**Exam 2 Review**

Topics on this exam:

* Interest Groups
  + Role they play:
    - They bring awareness to a subject. Think of them like a middleman between citizens and the government
  + Three types
    - Business groups
      * Example would be like a farming interest groups
    - Public groups
    - Labor and Professional groups
      * Examples would be teacher interest groups. Protect these people
  + How are they regulated
    - Lobby disclosure act of 1995
      * Legislation aimed at bringing a level of accountability to federal lobbying practices in the United States. Federal lobbyists are required to register with the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate. Anyone failing to do so is punishable by a civil fine of up to $50,000.
* Laskd
  + GOP
    - Grand old party
  + There was a shift
  + Political parties today
    - Which states are blue/red
      * Red (republican): mainly the middle of the country, excluding the top middle (Michigan, Minnesota, etc.)
      * Blue (democratic): mainly outer states on both sides
    - What are the swing states
      * States that don’t lean one way or the other political party wise. Ohio is the big one
    - Rise of the tea party movement
      * The Tea Party movement is an American political movement known for its conservative positions and its role in the Republican Party. Members of the movement have called for a reduction of the U.S. national debt and federal budget deficit by reducing government spending.
    - De-Alignment
      * Rise of independent voters
* What do political parties do
  + Party identification
    - Serves as a screen for political information
  + Political ideology
    - Your beliefs in government
  + They inform the public
    - Coordinate policy making
    - Check the power of opposing party
    - Balance competing interests
* Running
  + How do we elect candidates
    - There is a primary
    - Where will parties decide who they want – national convention
    - Need 270 electoral college votes to become presidents

Citizens United

* Superpacs: big corporations who can give basically an unlimited amount of money to candidates
* Citizens united says that they can do this as long as super-pacts are not directly a part of the campaign. The argument is that they technically are by providing the means to run a campaign

5 reasons media runs the stories that they do:

1. Relevant (timely and novel)
2. Excitement (usually violent)
3. Familiar
4. Proximity (Something that you can relate to because you are close to it)
5. Impact (will people identify with this issue)

* Usually follows the formula of something very exciting and “bad”, and ending with something happy and uplifting, so as to keep they viewer coming back for more. Leave on a good note.

**Discussion Questions**

What do interest groups do beyond going to the capital and talking with legislatives?

* Berry’s four strategies of lobbying:
  + Information: testifying at legislative or agency hearings, conducting and publishing research, hold press conferences to get more media attention
  + Constituency Influence: building coalitions with other groups, increasing the number of members
  + Confrontation: having members channel passion toward specific individuals, protests and boycotts
  + Law: filing lawsuits or amicus briefs for court cases, drafting legislation or regulations

What is social capital and why does it matter?

* Social capital: when we get together in groups we make connections between individuals and these connections have the potential for benefits for the world and you personally
  + Norms of reciprocity and trust (help each other and learn who to trust)
  + Benefits for personal interests
  + Think of the bowling example from class, with the bowling groups declining leading to a lower amount of people getting involved in community

What are some signs society changed across the 50’s, 60’s and then from 70’s to 2000’s

* 50 to 60 (post great depression and WW2): number of community groups increases each year
  + Increasing affluence and education, church attendance booms, the “threat of leisure”
  + # of parents who would like children to be in politics doubles
* 70 to 2000
  + Basically the opposite happened. People became less and less involved in their community. Some contribute the rise of technology to this decline, as the internet led to easier communication online than physical interaction.
  + Theories of “too much bonding, not enough bridging”, and disillusionment like the Vietnam War Pentagon papers and the Watergate scandal.

Why do interest groups, even those with large memberships, still have problems accomplishing goals?

* Roadblocks to Collective Action: may have disincentives to get involved even though they want the end result (“free-rider” problem. People want the end result without actually getting involved with the group)
  + Think of the NRA with 4.5 million members, still very hard for them to do stuff

Why might we overestimate the percentage of independents in this country? How might real independents differ from one another?

* What do independents believe?
  + There is a difference between pure independents and leaning independents – the ANES asks:
    - If they consider themselves a D, I, R?
    - Then they ask, do you lean R or D?
  + About 10% don’t lean either way
* Two types of independents
  + Some are educated and have interests: Dalton’s a-partisans
  + Some are not educated and have little interest: Dalton’s a-political

What is party identification, where does it come from, why does it change, and why does it matter?

* Party identification: an attachment to a political party
  + Socialization
  + Group identification
  + Running tally of recent outcomes
* Change: this is pretty stable, it is more than likely people stay in partisan groups over time. Some people change parties because of tally changing (maybe because of Obama’s healthcare or education)

What keeps third parties from succeeding in the US?

* Voters must see third party candidate as a credible alternative
* Ballot access laws drain time and money
* Third party movements are like a start-up business
* Other parties absorbing their ideas and stances

In what ways might the media be biased?

* Political bias
* Personalization
* Dramatization: if there is crisis it appeals to emotions of viewers
* Fragmentation: immediate gets play, but stories fade quickly (no follow-up)
* Authority-Disorder Bias: negativity, threats to system get attention

What do potential candidates ask themselves before deciding to run?

* Questions of organization
  + Do I have the name recognition
  + Do I have the social capital needed
  + Do I have the money to run
  + Do I want to go up against my competitors
* Questions of History
  + Is there anything in my past that could come back to bite me
  + Is my social media private in this?

What is the invisible primary and why does it matter?

* Peoples opinion on candidates before the actual primary can basically decide the outcome of the primary before it actually happens
  + This is why candidates are at Iowa and New Hampshire early because they have the first primary
  + Frontloading: states want to be influential in this process of electoral votes, so they want to have early primaries

What does it matter, for better or for worse, that campaigns keep growing longer?

* The good/bad of the permanent campaign
  + Good: does it force politicians to listen to more voters
  + Good: does it offer more opportunities to participate?
  + Bad: too much short term thinking?
  + Bad: rise in combativeness?
    - We forget that we need to be running the government, and not just focus on getting reelected

What is ideology and why does it matter?

* Ideologies: a related set of beliefs about goals of society, and how to achieve those goals.
  + Oftentimes, ideologies are used to group people somewhere on the political spectrum (conservative or liberal).
    - Topics usually involved in this question include: spending, capitalism vs. social programs, change vs status quo, abortion, morality/religion, working/business
  + Basically, ideologies lead to party identification in a way.