**UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY (15-22%)**

**Enlightenment:** Movement that emphasized reason over superstition + natural rights (Anti-British)

**Principles (Made by James Liu)**

* Popular sovereignty: Government rules with peoples’ consent
* Republicanism: System where power is held by the people directly or through elections
* Separation of powers: Creation of branches in the government
* People (Social contract)
  + **Locke**: Advocated for social contract that government powers are derived from consent of the people. People have natural rights to life, liberty and property
  + **Rosseau**: Argued that the only good government was formed with consent of the people (social contract)
  + Montesquieu: Advocated separation of powers in the government (branches)
  + Hobbs: Best way to protect life is to give total power to a monarch (anarchy = chaos and violence)

**Types of Democracy**

* Democratic republic: Popular sovereignty but officials elected for interests
* Participatory: Everyone has direct roles
* Pluralist: Many groups with influence
* Elite: Single group rules

**Federalists vs. Anti Federalists**

* Federalists: Wanted strong federal government, believed it protected interests
* Anti Federalists: Concerned that strong federal government meant less individual and state rights
* Federalist 10: Argued for ratification of the US. Constitution (Danger of factions/state power)
* Brutus 1: Argued against Constitution, praised broad government (Feared larger republics)

**Articles of Confederation**

* Bad first Constitution (States too powerful, federal government too weak, one branch)
  + Shay’s Rebellion revealed issues like no power to raise taxes/keep military

**Ratification and Compromises**

* Great Compromise (CT): Bicameral legislature, Senate and House of Reps
  + Virginia Plan: Number of reps by population
  + New Jersey Plan: One vote per state
* Electoral College: States elect President
* 3/5ths Compromise: 3 out of 5 slaves counted as votes

**Separation of Powers/Other Parts of Constitution**

* Legislative, Executive, Judicial (Article I, II, III)
* Checks and balances: Each branch can check other branches
  + President can veto legislation, Congress can impeach president
  + President can nominate judges, Supreme Court can declare president unconstitutional
  + Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional, Congress can impeach justices
* Expressed vs Implied powers: Written powers and indicated by expressed authority
* Federalist 51: Advocates separation of powers, and checks and balances

**Types of Grants/Funding**

* Categorical: Grants for a specific purpose with strict guidelines
* Block: Grants for a broad purpose
* Formula: Distributed based on formula factors (Population, incomes)
* Project: Grants for organizations for projects
* Mandates: Government makes new demand, and gives money to them to meet goal

**Federalism**

* Dual/Layer Cake: Act separate of one another
* Cooperative/Marble Cake: Work together to do stuff
* Fiscal: Many grant programs + spending shared between state and federal
* McCulloch v. Maryland: Supremacy Clause (Federal government > State government)
* Commerce Clause: Congress has power to regulate interstate commerce (buy+sell across states)
* US v. Lopez: Limited national power in favor of state power

**UNIT 2: BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT (25-36%)**

**Legislative Branch (Lawmaking):**

**Congress**

* House: 435 members, population + district dependent, 2 year terms, more formal
  + Led by Speaker + others: Majority/Minority leader, Whip (Collect votes)
* Senate: 100 members, 2 per state, 6 year terms, less formal
  + Led by VP (only votes in ties) + Majority (Leads) /Minority leader, Whip (Collect votes)

**Committee Types**

* Standing: Permanent committees in areas of legislative activity, bipartisan,
* Select: Temporary committees for a specific investigation, have limited jurisdiction
* Conference: Temporary committees to resolve bill differences between House and Senate

**House Rules**

* Closed Rule: Prohibits amendments from being offered (Pass bill unchanged ASAP)
* Restricted Rule: Limits amendment offers by subject/amount (Avoid unnecessary delays)
* Open Rule: Allows any number/type of amendment to be offered (Most opportunities)

**Process of Bill to Law**

* Bill is introduced to House or Senate
* Sent to committee: If it passes hearings, it is sent to other house in Congress
* Sent to other house: If changes are made to bill, Conference committee made to reach agreement
* President has 10 days to sign/veto bill
  + Pocket veto: President does nothing and the bill expires
  + Line item veto: Only veto certain parts of the bill

**Federal Spending Types**

* Discretionary: Congress approved yearly budget for everything not mandatory
* Mandatory: Required spending that doesn’t need to be approved (Medicaid, Social Security)

**Gerrymandering:** Redrawing district lines in favor of one party

* Shaw v. Reno: Redrawing district lines by race is unconstitutional
* Baker v. Carr: Districts have to ensure votes carry equal weight and representation by population

Redlining: Denying loans to minorities based on region or risk

Constituent Accountability: Responsibility to be held accountable to the needs and interests of the people

**Executive Branch (Enforcing Laws)**

**Responsibilities of President**

* Commander in Chief (Congress still declares war)
  + War Powers Act: Notify Congress within 48 hours of deploying troops up to 60 days
* Chief Diplomat: Appoint ambassadors and negotiate treaties with Senate
  + Executive agreement: Informal treaties without Senate approval
* Appoint Judges with Senate approval and Cabinet Members
* Federalist 70: Argues for a strong executive branch and unitary executive.

22nd Amendment: Only 2 terms

**Bureaucracy**

* Cabinet: Permanent/Important issues only, led by a cabinet secretary
* Regulatory Agencies: Contacts president on regulations of government
* Independent Executive Agencies: Politically involved, aids the president’s responsibilities
* Government Corporations: For profit corporations funded by Congress (Post offices)

Discretionary Authority: Agency’s choice to take action or not when implementing laws

**Judicial Branch (Interpreting Laws)**

* District Courts/Courts of Appeal/SCOTUS: Original/Appellate/Original and appellate jurisdiction

**Judicial Review**

* Federalist 78: Judicial = least dangerous, should be free from political influence + judicial review
* Marbury v. Madison: Established judicial review
* Writ of Mandamus: Compel lower court to do something
* Grant Cert: Needing 4/9 judges to hear a case

**Precedent/Stare Decisis:**  Previous rulings are guides for similar future cases (Stand by things decided)

* Definition: Brown v. Board: Stare decisis override (Plessy v. Ferguson), no segregation

Judicial Restraint/Activism: Follow Constitution word by word/Interpret the Constitution in new ways

**UNIT 3: CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES (13-18%)**

**Bill of Rights**

* Protects individual liberties by limiting federal government (Protected by law)
* Civil Liberties: Rights to be free from gov interference + legals (Right to marry and travel)
* Civil Rights: Rights to be free from unequal treatments based on race/gender/group involvement

**First Amendment**

* Assembly, Petition: Peaceful protests and petitions to influence public policy
* Establishment/Free Exercise Clause: No preference for religion/right to practice religion of choice
  + Engel v. Vitale: No government support to any religion (Prayers in school)
    - Lemon test: Law needs to be unbiased to religion, purposeful, free from religion
  + Wisconsin v. Yoder: Protections for religion outweigh the state interests
    - Fined Amish families for not sending kids to school after 8th grade
* Freedom of Speech: Say what you want
  + Tinker v. Des Moines: Protest armbands are a form of symbolic speech (free speech)
  + Schenck v. US: Speech can be limited if it creates a present danger (time, place, manner)
    - Mailing 15,000 fliers to ask men to resist military draft
    - Unprotected speech: Defamation, Lack of value, Illegal intent
* Press: News can publish ideas without government interference
  + Limits
    - Libel/Slander: Written/Spoken defamation of character
    - Prior restraint: Government reviews and can censor publications
  + NY Times Co v. US: Government cannot censor their actions from public press
    - Nixon restraining NYT from publishing Pentagon Papers for security concerns

**Second Amendment**

* Right to bear arms
* McDonald v. Chicago: Ban on guns is unconstitutional, self defense seen as fundamental

**Individual Freedom vs. Public Order**

* 8th Amendment: No cruel or unusual punishment (Limits govt power to punish individuals)
* 2nd/4th Amendment: Right to bear arms/Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
  + Interpretation changed after 9/11

**Selective Incorporation**

* Applies Bill of Rights to state government through Due Process Clause on case-by-case basis
  + Government required to respect individual rights
* McDonald v. Chicago: SCOTUS held the 2nd Amendment right, and expanded it to all state govs

**Rights of The Accused**

* Exclusionary rule (4th): Can’t use illegally obtained evidence,
* Lawyer (6th): A lawyer must be provided for trials
* Miranda Rule (5th): Suspects have to be informed of their Constitutional rights before custody
  + Exceptions can be made if there is a public safety concern (Bomb, hostages, weapons)
* Gideon v. Wainwright: All criminal defendants have right to a lawyer regardless if they can pay

**Right to Privacy**

* Due Process: Govt must respect all rights of citizens + no deprivation before due process of law
* Roe v. Wade: Established that right to privacy was decided to include terminating pregnancy

**Social Movements**

* Civil rights groups use legislation and court cases to achieve goals
* Letter from Birmingham Jail: Defended nonviolent action/disobedience against discrimination
* Brown v. Board of Education: Segregation (“separate but equal”) in schools unconstitutional

**Affirmative Action**

* Policies favoring disadvantaged individuals (to possibly combat discrimination)
* De Jure Segregation: Segregation enforced by law (Jim Crow Laws)
* De Facto Segregation: Segregation by socioeconomic factors, not enforced (Neighborhoods)

**UNIT 4: AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND BELIEFS (10-15%):**

**Ideologies**

* Liberal: More government economic regulation + personal privacy is very important
* Conservative: Less govt economic regulation + some govt control in privacy (besides religion)
* Libertarian: Minimal government involvement in economics (besides property rights) and privacy

**Formation of Ideologies**

* Political socialization: How individuals develop opinions on society and politics
  + Factors: environment, age cycle, family, school, peers, media, religion, civic organizations, globalization
* Political events can significantly influence individual political beliefs
  + Party realignment: Sharp change in voter groups behavior
    - 9/11 shifted many towards Republican Party
    - Great Depression shifted many towards Democratic rule

**Changes in Ideologies**

* Generational effects: Experiences by generations can skew beliefs (Great Depression = DEM)
* Lifecycle effects: Political beliefs and participation changing with age (Old = more conservative)
* Period effects: Major events that affect beliefs of everyone (Watergate and 9/11)

**Manifestation of Ideologies**

* Linkage Institutions: Social structures that facilitate flow of political expressions (interest groups)
* Political parties
  + DEM: Left leaning + liberal
    - 2012 Election: Obama’s election meant focus on progressive values
      * Healthcare reform, immigration, economic inequality
  + GOP: Right leaning + conservative
    - 1980 Election: Ronald Reagan’s election meant focus on conservative values
      * Reduced govt economic involvement + promoting individual freedom
* SCOTUS Cases: Illustrate views of era and demographics
  + Planned Parenthood v. Casey: Bans on abortion unconstitutional if they are undue burden
    - Abandoned Roe v Wade’s stricter trimester framework (Around 2 decades prior)
  + Obergefell v. Hodges: Legalized same sex marriage in all states
    - Overturned Baler v. Nelson’s ban on same sex marriage (Around 44 years prior)
* Public opinion: Distribution of views regarding issue/candidate, can indicate political support

**Measuring Public Opinion**

* Scientific polls
  + Opinion: Measure public opinion on specific issue or topic
  + Entrance/Exit: Conducted on election day on voter preferences, demographics, etc
  + Benchmark: Before campaign initiative to establish baseline
  + Tracking: Conducted over time on group/issue to measure changes in public opinion
  + Mass surveys: Large scale surveys through internet/mail to measure population opinion
  + Focus group: Small discussions with selected group to gather data, attitudes, beliefs

**Evaluating data**

* + Validity/Veracity: Extent of study measuring intended variable/Accuracy of data collected
    - Can be affected by wording/question structure, and sample characteristics
  + Flaws: Subjective question interpretations, small sample size, high margin of error

**UNIT 5: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (20-27%)**

**Voting**

**Voting Models**

* Single issue: Vote based on one issue important to them (Gun rights, abortion)
* Rational choice: Vote based on self interest (Tax cut policies)
* Retrospective: Vote based on party’s past performance
* Prospective: Vote based on party’s future performance
* Party-line: Vote always based on preferred political party

**Voter Turnout Factors**

* Election type: Federal/state elections (more votes for federal elections since its more important)
* Voter registration laws: Stricter voter registration laws = lower voter turnout
* Voting incentive: Free public transportation on election day/free pin
* Fees: Pay to register to vote (Less people)
* Midterm/Presidency: Higher voter turnout during presidential election years

**Amendments**

* 15th: Granted African-American right to vote
* 17th: Allowed voters to cast direct votes for Senators
* 19th: Granted women the right to vote
* 24th: Voided federal poll taxes (Used to stop African American voting)
* 26th: Lowered voting age from 21 to 18
* Motor Voter Act of 1993: States must offer voter registration when applying for driver’s license
* Voting Rights Act of 1965: Prohibited racial discrimination in voting (Literacy tests, poll taxes)

**Election Structures**

* Winner-Take-All: Candidate with the most votes wins election
* Ranked Choice: Candidates are ranked, fewest eliminated until one candidate has majority

**Policy Outcomes**

* Bush Admin Tax Cuts: Tax cut for economic growth, jobs, relief (Arguably benefited wealthy)
* Lobbying: Interest groups try to influence public officials (Contribution, grassroots local protests)
* Iron Triangles: Congress committees+bureaucracy+interest groups (Weak to issue networks)

**Campaign Finance**

* BCRA/McCain-Feingold Act of 2002: Limits campaign funding by corporations, nullified in FEC
* Citizens United vs. FEC: Corporate donations=free speech, allowing unlimited campaign funding

**Media Coverage**

* Social media: Tool to reach voters and promote message (Risk of quick spreading fake news)
* Major network news: Prioritize profit, attracting viewers, entertainment (Superficial coverage)
  + Can lead to horse race coverage: Day to day poll changes, any actions made by candidate

**COURT CASES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

**Court Cases**

* Baker v. Carr: No redistricting in Tennessee after population change, unfair representation
  + Issue: Do courts have right to intervene in redistricting if they violated Equal Protection?
  + Decision: Yes, they can force states to guarantee equal protection (1 vote per person)
* Brown v. Board of Ed: Challenged the separate but equal doctrine from Plessy v. Ferguson
  + Issue: Does racial segregation violate the Equal Protection clause?
  + Decision: Yes, it is unconstitutional (unanimous overturning)
* Citizens United v. FEC: Corporations invested alot privately into anti-Hillary Clinton video
  + Issue: Can you limit corporations from spending money for public speech in elections?
  + Decision: No, first amendment freedom of speech applies to corporations somehow
* Engel v. Vitale: School wide “optional” prayers offered in public schools
  + Issue: Is it constitutional to set up school wide prayers?
  + Decision: No, establishment clause in 1st Amendment does not endorse a religion
* Gideon v. Wainwright: Defendant couldn’t afford an attorney, represented himself and went to jail
  + Issue: Does the 6th amendment pertain to state court cases?
  + Decision: Yes (This right was selectively incorporated, now everyone has a lawyer)
* Marbury v. Madison
  + Issue: Can Marbury sue the federal government + SCOTUS order writ of mandamus?
  + Decision: No, it is unconstitutional (Defined judicial review and the judicial branch)
* McCulloch v. Maryland: Maryland issued tax on all banks not chartered by state
  + Issue: Can Congress establish a national bank/can state tax the federal government?
  + Decision: Yes Congress can establish the bank, no states can’t issue taxes
* McDonald v. City of Chicago: McDonald sued Chicago on their gun ban (Personal safety claim)
  + Issue: Does the second amendment apply to state and local governments?
  + Decision: yes, Applies to states through 14th amendment (Selectively incorporated)
* New York Times v. U.S: Nixon wanted to stop NYT from releasing info about Vietnam War
  + Issue: Can the NYT publish Pentagon Paper excerpts? (Prior restraint allowed?)
  + Decision: Yes, freedom of the press, not slander + government not allowed to censor
* Roe v. Wade: Roe filed lawsuit against Texas law about making abortion mostly illegal
  + Issue: Do women have the right to terminate abortion? To what extent?
  + Decision: 9th + 14th Amendment Equal Protection meant women have right to own body
* Schenck v. U.S: Guy handing out several thousand fliers to ask people to reject the draft
  + Issue: What is the extent of freedom of speech? Is it absolute?
  + Decision: No, first amendment is not permitted if there is a danger + time of crisis
* Shaw v. Reno: Suspected redistricting based on race in populations (Gerrymandering)
  + Issue: Does gerrymandering by race violate the Equal Protection Clause?
  + Decision: Yes, race cannot be predominant factor in redistricting
* Tinker v. Des Moines: Suspended students wore black armband to schools to protest Vietnam War
  + Issue: Is symbolic speech protected under the First Amendment?
  + Decision: yes, students’ speech was protected, First Amendment applies in schools too
* U.S. v. Lopez: High school student found with firearm on school grounds (Gun free school zones)
  + Issue: Did Gun Free School Zones Act exceed Congress power on interstate commerce?
  + Decision: Yes, if Congress could regulate guns in school zones, they regulate everything
* Wisconsin v. Yoder: Amish families were fined for not sending their children to high school
  + Issue: Does school attendance law violate free exercise of religion in Amish families?
  + Decision: Yes, First Amendment allows them to practice religion without punishment

**Federalist Papers/Other Documents**

* Federalist #10: The dangers of factions+importance of strong central government (3 Branches)
* Federalist #51: The importance of checks and balances and separation of powers (Congress)
* Federalist #70: Argues for a single strong executive+branch during times of crisis (President)
* Federalist #78: Small role of judiciary in interpreting the Constitution (SCOTUS without politics)
* Brutus 1: Argued against Constitution, praised broad government (Feared larger republics)
* Letter from a Birmingham Jail: Defends nonviolent protests (necessary for fight of civil rights)
  + Written while imprisoned for participation in nonviolent protest

**ARTICLES AND AMENDMENTS**

**Articles:** Duties of three main branches of government

* Article I: Legislative + Bicameral, (Congress passes + raises laws and taxes, House introduces)
* Article II: Executive power + 4 year term + Commander in Chief + State of Union + Treason
* Article III: Jurisdiction + establishes SCOTUS + job to interpret Constitution + defines treason
* Article IV: State behavior, Full Faith+Credit (Must honor laws + judicial proceeds of other states)
* Article V: Amendment process, proposed by 2/3ds both Houses and ratified by 3/4ths States
* Article VI: Supremacy clause (Federal > State)

**Amendments:** Changes to the Constitution

**Bill of Rights (Most Important)**

* Amendment I: Freedom of Press, Religion, Assembly, Petition, Speech (PRAPS)
* Amendment II: Right to bear arms
* Amendment III: Right to refuse quartering soldiers
* Amendment IV: No unreasonable search and seizure
* Amendment V: Right to grand jury (citizens)/due process + no self incriminate/double jeopardy
* Amendment VI: Right to speedy trial, impartial jury, know charges, confront witnesses, lawyer
* Amendment VII: Right to request trial by jury in civil case
* Amendment VIII: Right against excessive fines or cruel and unusual punishment
* Amendment IX: Rights not listed in the Constitution belong to the people, not the government
* Amendment X: Rights not given to federal government is given to states

**Other Amendments**

* Amendment 11: Limits federal courts from hearing lawsuits against state governments by citizens
* Amendment 12: Electoral College revision (Separate ballots for President and VP)
* Amendment 13: Abolished slavery besides for crimes
* Amendment 14: Citizenship to all born on American soil + Equal Protection Clause
* Amendment 15: Prohibits Federal + State government from denying votes based on race
* Amendment 16: Congress can collect income tax
* Amendment 17: Senators elected by popular vote
* Amendment 18: Prohibits manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors
* Amendment 19: Prohibits Federal + State government from denying votes based on sex
* Amendment 20: Term date moved from March 4 to Jan 20, Congress to Jan 3
* Amendment 21: Repeals the 18th amendment (Alcohol allowed yippee)
* Amendment 22: Limits president to serve 2 terms
* Amendment 23: Washington DC residents can vote in Presidential elections
* Amendment 24: Prohibits poll taxes in elections
* Amendment 25: If president dies/resigns, vice president takes over office
* Amendment 26: Lowered voting age to 18
* Amendment 27: Congress can’t raise their own pay