**Exam 1 Review**

**GOVT.2305.HCC  
Fall 2023**

**Note:** Don’t forget to search the lecture notes below each slide to find answers to some of the hints—and for most hints (especially the ones that are very specific), keep your answers as short as possible (remember, you have to memorize 45 answers to hints to do well on the exam). For each video, write down quotes or paraphrase what is said in the video.

While taking the exam, read the answer choices carefully—identify correct answer choices as only those you remember from the lecture or from what the professor said in class. This is particularly important when you answer questions that are “all of the above” or “both a) and b)” and “all of the following: a), b), and c).”

Do your own work – don’t share your answers to the hints with other students. I consider the sharing of answers on your review sheet to be cheating.

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| **The Topic** | **No. of Questions** |
| Pew Research Poll | 5 |
| Political Parties | 9 |
| Public Opinion | 5 |
| Congressional Elections | 4 |
| 2022 Midterm Elections (Patterson) | 0 |
| The Presidency | 9 |
| 2020 Presidential Campaign | 2 |
| 2020 Presidential Campaign (Postscript) | 1 |
| 2016 Presidential Campaign | 0 |
| Professor’s Note on Why Biden Won | 2 |
| 2024 – David Ignatius Op-Ed on Biden | 2 |
| Video Questions | 6 |

**Pew Research Poll**

Lecture: Know Pew Research political-value questions, liberal v. conservative answers on business and the environment (2 questions) (slide #2—see slide + notes below slide); regarding “what Republicans and Democrats say about their own respective parties,” on which do the largest majority (largest %’s) of Republicans believe that they are better than Democrats + on which do the largest majority (largest %) of Democrats believe that they are better than Republicans (2 questions) (see slide #6); “what Republicans and Democrats say about the other party,” which % measure stands out (find one that indicates that most believe that Republicans and Democrats are the same) (see slide #6)

**Political Parties**

Lecture: Why a plurality electoral system tends to have two political parties (see slide #5); plurality v. proportional representation (scenario given; see notes below slide #5; prepare to do simple math, such as 20% of 10); how Libertarian Jo Jorgensen responded to allegation that her candidacy cost Trump the election in 2020 (see: <https://www.rt.com/usa/506654-jorgensen-biden-trump-election/> ); across U.S. history, most important issue 3rd parties forced the major parties to address; how FiveThirtyEight.com characterized Pete Buttigieg’s departure from the Democratic presidential nomination race in Feb. 2020 (see notes below Slide #18); know how the Democratic “establishment” defeated Bernie Sanders in 2020 primaries (and compare that to the Republican “establishment” v. Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020) (short answer) (see notes below Slide #18); that Joe Biden will have minor challengers in the Democratic primaries (2024) is an indication of what; on which recent issue have the Democrats and Republicans switched positions (a current event); why is it unlikely that one of the major parties today will be displaced by a rising 3rd party, like what the Republicans did to the Whigs in the 1850s

**Public Opinion**

Lecture: Speculate as to why a greater % of Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians would vote for Trump in 2020 v. the % who voted for Trump in 2016, given that Trump was characterized as a racist and white supremacist (short answer); know the timeline of Catholic voters and how they have voted in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020; know % of women who voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016 v. Joe Biden in 2020; know which candidate won independent voters by the largest % margin (when compared to his or her competitor)—Biden in 2020, Trump in 2016, or Obama in 2012 (short answer); know why Biden and Trump in 2020 won a higher % of their own party voters (higher % of Democrats voted for Biden; higher % of Republicans voted for Trump) than in 2016

**Congressional Elections**

Know the leaders in Congress and which positions each holds (see slide #5) (1 question) (for background, see: https://www.cnn.com/2023/09/27/politics/senate-passes-formal-dress-code/index.html); the typical gender and marital demographic of a member of Congress who is forced to resign because of a sex scandal; an extraordinary circumstance that might have blunted the expected “red wave” in the 2022 midterm elections; what was the extraordinary circumstance that resulted in the reversal of the trend in midterm elections in 2002 (short answer)

**Patterson on the 2022 Midterms (3-15-2022)**

Lecture: No questions.

**The Presidency**

Lecture: 2021 presidential rankings: know individual categories where historians ranked Donald Trump (2017-21) as our worst president (44th of 44); know rankings in individual categories where Jimmy Carter (1977-81) ranked best (see “blue-colored” rankings + know numbered ranking); what price did Lincoln pay for exhibiting leadership in ending slavery; which trait did Trump possess that might have encouraged America’s adversaries to stand down, given that there were no foreign policy crises in Trump’s administration; why did Obama want to avoid issuing threats or implied threats as president; which trait did Trump lack that would have helped him be a crisis leader during the coronavirus; on which issue(s) did Jimmy Carter (1977-81) try to do what was morally right but ultimately backfired politically; identify the president who (like Trump) defied “the rules” of presidential politics; know the rally effect (scenarios given in answer choices regarding hypothetical involving Biden)

**2020 Presidential Campaign**

Lecture: Valence (character) issue(s) on which Biden had an advantage over Trump and on which Trump had an advantage over Biden (1 question); election results: the popular vote nationwide (% margin difference) and the popular vote in the battleground states (% margin difference) between Trump and Biden (1 question)

**2020 Presidential Campaign (PostScript)**

Lecture: News story that was suppressed by social media companies and most networks in 2020 (short answer)

**2016 Presidential Campaign**

Lecture: No questions.

**Why Biden Won**

Know reason Biden voters believe Biden won in 2020 (find largest % among Biden voters); know reason Trump voters believe Biden won in 2020 (find largest % among Trump voters) (see Note on Why Biden Won on Canvas)

**2024 Presidential Race**

**David Ignatius Op-Ed in Washington Post: “President Biden Should Not Run Again in 2024”**  
What Ignatius cites as Joe Biden’s greatest achievement as president; what Ignatius believes are Joe Biden’s two big liabilities (if Biden choses to run again in 2024)

(See: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/09/12/biden-trump-election-step-aside/> )

**Videos – A link to the videos, and descriptions of each video, can be found in a file posted on Canvas**

**2024 Presidential Race**Bill Maher on Why Biden Should Not Run Again (2023) – What Maher cites as his concern(s) about when Biden may perform poorly in the eyes of the public and then potentially lose to Trump

**Polarization**  
President Biden’s Speech on the MAGA Threat (2022) – Note one of Biden’s more memorable lines from the MAGA Republican speech (a line he cites in every speech he gives on the MAGA threat to democracy); how Biden described the 1/6/2021 rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol versus how MAGA Republicans view the rioters  
Bill Maher and Guests on Cultural Theories of Polarization (2021) – Ralph Reed on a historical presidential administration in a highly polarized era (know the presidential administration)

**2020 Post-Presidential Election Analysis**2020 Presidential Election both Close and a Blowout (2020) – Which states did Chuck Todd, moderator of Meet the Press, cite as being very close in 2020; which states did Chuck Todd cite as evidence that the election was a blowout

**Essay Question – Choose 1 of 3 on which to write (10 points)**

Explain the issue of polarization. Republicans and Democrats are divided on a great many issues, including on abortion rights, gun rights, climate change (and oil policies), crime/policing (defunding the police), the Russia-Ukraine War, and in the 2020-22 timeframe, on the response to the coronavirus (as well as what the science says), as well as many others. In the context of our lecture on polarization and as polarization is addressed in the subsequent lectures, start by defining what polarization is and what are its consequences, i.e., summarize the big picture points made in the lectures and what you know about polarization, and in your body paragraphs, address a couple of the issues on which our culture is polarized (see list above or identify others), and in your conclusion, tell me if you think polarization is good or bad and why. Write an introduction, two (2) body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Be sure to do a little research on the issues that you address, so that you can write something substantive, and give examples to illustrate your points.

--or--

Write about your thoughts on the Biden administration. Joe Biden is more than 2 1/2 years into his presidency, coming off a much better than expected 2022 midterm election. In his first 2 1/2 years, Biden has been fairly aggressive in asserting his policies on a wide range of issues, such as on immigration, climate change and energy policy, racial equity, transgender issues, government activism/spending, diplomacy, Afghanistan, the Russia-Ukraine War, and in the 2020-22 timeframe, on the coronavirus, and probably many more. In his first days in office, he issued 40+ executive orders, actions, and presidential memorandums emphasizing the policy agenda for his presidency, many of which reversed that of the previous Trump administration. For your essay, do some research on Biden's policy agenda so that you can address specific aspects regarding what he has accomplished or hopes to accomplish and give your opinion about how successful you believe Biden has been. You can focus on Biden's agenda, but you can also address valence issues, i.e., Joe Biden's personal traits that defines him as a leader. Write a catchy introduction, three (3) body paragraphs, each addressing a separate issue area, and in the conclusion, tell me if you think the Biden presidency has been a success so far and what do you think about his prospects to win reelection in 2024 (presuming he runs again)?

Some articles to consider (if you want):

https://www.whitehouse.gov/priorities/

https://www.npr.org/2023/01/01/1143149435/despite-infighting-its-been-a-surprisingly-productive-2-years-for-democrats

https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/16/politics/president-biden-top-agenda-priorities/index.html

https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/29/politics/biden-executive-orders-climate-health-care-coronavirus-immigration/index.html

https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/19/politics/joe-biden-presidency-under-scrutiny/index.html

https://investmentmonitor.ai/analysis/biden-trump-us-policy-china

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/bidens-promise-to-restore-competence-to-the-presidency-undercut-by-chaos-in-afghanistan/2021/08/16/4feaaebc-feaf-11eb-ba7e-2cf966e88e93\_story.html

https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/takeaways-bidens-trip-europe-rcna21718?msclkid=6fa1c3d6b53d11ecb8ca6bc37b95306b

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2022/02/17/why-inflation-is-president-bidens-biggest-political-problem/

https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/30/politics/strategic-petroleum-reserve-release-oil-joe-biden/index.html

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/08/us/politics/biden-climate-bill-agenda-covid.html

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/24/us/politics/biden-zelensky-ukraine-russia.html

--or--

Think about what makes a president great, as presented in the lecture. Historians look for presidents who take big risks to accomplish big achievements. Some of the traits that help a president exhibit leadership are good timing, the right personality or character, political intelligence, and political experience--or--you could consider the criteria presidential historians use to rank presidents from best to worst. You can address the current or past presidents. For instance, do you think that Joe Biden exhibits any of the qualities of a great president? Do you think that Trump, Obama, or Bush43 (the son) exhibited any of these traits? Be sure to give rationale/examples to support the arguments you make. If you address just one president, go into more detail by addressing a separate aspect of that presidency in each of your body paragraphs. If you write about more than one president, devote each body paragraph to one president. Write 4 or 5 paragraphs--an introduction, one paragraph on each of the presidents you address or separate topics about the same president, and a conclusion.