**Exam 2 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. For each video, take more notes, especially quotes from the video. For the essay, write 4 to 5 paragraphs, including an introduction, 2 or 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.   
  
There are no questions from the textbook on this exam.

Each hint is separated by a semi-colon (;). I suggest you separate the hints, leaving room for you to write-in or type-in your answers to each hint.

Do your own work – don’t share your answers to the hints with other students.

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| **The Topic** | **No. of Questions** |
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**Separation of Powers**

Lecture: Why America has no military coups (military takeover of government);

Shared control of the military between Presidency and Congress, Congress provides the funding, sets the rules, and regulations for the military while the president deploys the troops.

Note how final decision authority over commanding troops is separated from the military generals (short answer);

Military generals answer to civilian leaders such as the president, secretary of defense. Moreover, Congress provides funding and sets rules for military.

Which branch of government is constitutionally the most powerful;

The Legislative Branch

Which branch of government has final decision authority on the most controversial issues;

The Judicial Branch

Why FDR did not issue an executive order to expand the U.S. Supreme Court from 9 to 15 members (note how membership is increased);

Because only Congress has the power to set the number of justices on the Supreme Court

Why President Wilson did not issue an executive order for the U.S. to join the League of Nations (note how treaties with foreign countries are ratified)

The US Senate ratifies treaties with foreign powers, not the president.

**Presidential Scandals**

Lecture: In the context of impeachment, understand why the 2022 congressional midterm elections were important for President Biden and his Republican opposition;

If Republicans took back the US house, then they would’ve investigated the

Hunter-Biden laptop controversy

Note what did Reagan and Clinton did to win over public opinion but Nixon did not do (nor did Trump);

They had justification for their crimes in the view of the public and they made apologies.

To which other scandal does Trump’s 1st impeachment scandal have the most in common (Nixon’s, Reagan’s, Clinton’s);

Nixon

Why Reagan was not impeached (while Clinton and Trump were impeached, and Nixon would have been but he resigned first) (see Slide #13, also see notes below slide);

He resigned

Why the American people essentially forgave Reagan and Clinton, respectively, for their wrongdoings (2 questions) (see Slide #14, notes below slide);

They apologized for their actions and said actions were seen as justified

In what way did the Hillary Clinton campaign perpetuate the lies and smears associated with Trump’s alleged involvement in the Russia “collusion” scandal (short answer) (<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/18/politics/steele-dossier-reckoning/index.html>);

The Steele Dossier

Why your professor believes the legal argument against Trump (in the second impeachment) was weak (short answer);

“Fight like hell” is political rhetoric, not incitement

Note a significant difference between Trump’s two impeachment scandals (related to increasing the odds of an impeachment and removal of a president);

Trump was impeached on his second trial, one week prior to leaving office.

Of all the scandals presented, what is one issue that seems to bother presidents of both parties (think about Watergate and “the plumbers” + Obama and Trump scandals);

Poor economy

Of all the scandals presented, which one is unique in that the president did not seek to benefit personally but at the same time his scandal may be the most serious violation of the U.S Constitution

Iran/Contra Reagan

**Congress—The Curse of Power**

Lecture: Who holds the most powerful positions in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate (1 question);

Speaker of the House – Congress, Majority Leader - Senate

What is the preferred tactic used to discredit leaders in Congress;

Scandal or controvery

In cases of real wrongdoings, what did Gov. Rob Blagojevich (D-IL) do to be impeached and removed by the Illinois legislature and eventually to be sent to prison;

Sell Barack Obama’s vacant senate seat for cash and favors

Why Dennis Hastert (R-IL) was not subject to the “curse of power,” at least not to the degree of most other leaders in Congress (the Democrats did not uncover that Hastert was a pedophile while he was Speaker);

Democrats won Majority

A scandal that might have affected enough votes to prevent Jim Jordan (R-OH) from becoming Speaker (in Oct. 2023);

Wrestling scandal involving sex

Why Republicans have brought down their own Speakers over the last 25 years or so;

To avoid controversies and not committing to Republican goals

Why the Steve Scalise race controversy was made public in the media in 2015 some 13 years after Scalise’s speech to a white supremacist group (think about what the curse of power means);

Because he was elected to the 3rd most powerful position

Why there was so much sympathy for Steve Scalise in 2017, despite his race controversy in 2015 (short answer);

He was gravely injured in an attempted assassination

Why was U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, subject to the “curse of power” in his nomination hearings in 2018

He was going to be appointed to the supreme court, so controversy was sought to prevent this

**Race and Politics**

Lecture: Examples that illustrate that Republicans and conservatives are more vulnerable to accusations of racism than Democrats and liberals (know more recent examples detailed below slide);

Republicans/conservatives have fought against civil rights, affirmative action, and welfare.

Other countries that are also hypersensitive on race issues (similar to the U.S.);

Balkans, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan

What precipitating event sparked the momentum to take down the confederate flag at southern state capitols (2015);

Dylan Roof church shooting

What changes have we seen in our country, both symbolic and substantive, in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd (1 question – know slide and notes below slide);

Confederate statues were taken down

Know details of ESPN Robert Lee’s case during the violence in Charlottesville in 2017 (which was about taking down the statue of Robert E. Lee, Confederate General);

Robert Lee was moved to talk about a different game since his name was similar to Robert E. Lee

Why conservative and Republican legislatures are pushing back against DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) and CRT (Critical Race Theory);

DEI and CRT discourage inclusion

Know the details of the ESPN Jamele Hill case regarding her comments about Donald Trump (2017);

Called Trump a white supremacist

Know details of the Rosanne Bar case (2018);

Muslim Brotherhood and Planet of the Apes had a baby

Know details of Jusse Smollett case (2019);

Staged a hoax racist attack and filed a false police report

Know details of the Nury Martinez case (2022);

Insulted a fellow councilmember “Fuck that guy. He’s with the blacks”

Know case in which government took action to punish the use of an offensive term (most cases in lecture are private actions, not government actions);

Ferguson

Know the Obama poll on empowerment:

63% to 75% felt empowered, 75% to 60% felt system is rigged

Differences between blacks and whites on “the system is rigged” (know %’s for whites and blacks on empowerment in 2009);

White 29% - black 60%

What did the US Justice Department conclude about the police killing of Michael Brown (2014)

Officer Wilson’s story of events is correct

**Videos Clips**

Please see Exam 2 Video Clip Links on Canvas to find video links.

**Congress (Curse of Power)**

Steve Scalise Race Controversy (2015) – What was Cedric Richmond’s (D-LA), the only black member of the Louisiana delegation to the U.S. House, comment regarding whether he believed Steve Scalise (R-LA) was racist

I don’t believe that Scalise has any racial misbeliefs and that he’s just a hard worker.

**Race and Politics**

Bill Maher on Two National Anthems at NFL Football Games (2021) – How does Maher define “an old school liberal” versus “a woke liberal;”

Actually believing in liberty

Name the political figure that Maher cites as having encouraged people not to view our country as a white America and a black America (short answer)

Martin Luther King Jr.

Amy Cooper False Accusation of Black Man in Central Park (2020) – How Melody Cooper (Christian Cooper’s sister) described the history of white women falsely accusing black men (know quote);

Weaponized, reminded her of Emett Till

What Christian Cooper does to look less threatening in public;

Wear glasses

Soledad O’Brien’s reaction to learning that Amy Cooper (not related to Melody or Christian Cooper) was a liberal and a contributor to Obama’s presidential campaigns

Unsurprised that white liberal women can be racist

**Essay Choices – Choose only one essay on which to write (10 points)**

Regarding our culture’s hypersensitivity on race, your professor explains it this way, “Because of our past, our culture must ‘prove’ it has abandoned its discriminatory ways by punishing those who make racial/racist comments, whether the commentators are racist or not.” In your essay, first, given your own knowledge and what you learned in the lecture, how would you characterize the status of race relations in the 3 years following the police killing of George Floyd--good or bad or a combination of both, and why? Consider the events that have occurred in the last decade or so (some of which are detailed in the lecture), starting with the killing of Trayvon Martin and culminating with the police killing of George Floyd. Also, consider the events in the post-George Floyd era (e.g., police reform, including "defund the police," the peaceful and violent protests, including the tearing down of statues, the implementation of DEI workplaces across America). On balance, do you think the reaction been good for America, bad, or somewhere in between? Remember to give examples to illustrate your points. Next, address whether you think a president has much of an impact on race relations, e.g., draw conclusions from Obama's election as the first black president followed by Trump, who was accused, rightly or wrongly, of being a white supremacist, and then followed by Joe Biden, who won the Democratic nomination by rallying his black supporters and as president has made "equity" a policy goal throughout the federal government. Lastly, in your conclusion, give your opinion on what you think we need to do as a culture to put race behind us once and for all, and if you have experienced or witnessed racism in your own life, and if telling that story flows well in your concluding thoughts, then describe what happened. Write an introduction, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.