**American Politics Midterm Questions**

**Fall 2023**

**Dr. Fornieri**

I will select 5 of the following questions for your Midterm. During the exam, you will answer 4 of the 5. Using complete sentences, answer in at least one side of a blue book (2-3 paragraphs each question). Devote about 15 -20 minutes to each question.

Midterm Exam is **Tuesday October 24th 2023** in class or DSO Office for extended time.

**Questions.**

1. What is the study of politics about and how does it differ from other “sciences”? What is legitimacy? Discuss Aristotle’s classification of different kinds of regimes.
2. Discuss the Declaration of Independence as a covenant, an indictment, and the source of the American creed. Identify the core principles of the Declaration?
3. Explain Three Roots of American Order and their influence on American politics. Mention specific thinkers, documents, ideas.
4. Identify and explain the 3 provisions of the Constitution that deal with slavery? What does the language of the Constitution suggest about slavery? What is the significance of the Northwest Ordinance?
5. Discuss the separation of powers. Explain how separated institutions share power and provide an example of how this is done in each case. You must mention Federalist 51 as an explanation of how this works.
6. Discuss the Articles of Confederation and explain how the Constitution sought to remedy its defects in creating “a more perfect Union.” Provide specific examples.
7. Distinguish between 2 kinds of popular government, pure democracy versus republicanism. What are their similarities and how do they differ?
8. Discuss the Great Compromise at the Constitutional Convention. Identify the other proposals that it combined.
9. Discuss Federalism and two specific provisions of the Constitution related to it. Mention the different approaches to federalism throughout American history—for example, dual federalism.
10. Identify Articles 4-7 in the Constitution. What are these articles about? What do they say? Summarize their major provisions and include a specific example of each.

**Rubric.**

Each question is worth 10 point for a total of 40 possible points. Your answers should include content from the book, lecture and power points.

Full credit will be given for questions that:

1. Correctly define and identify all key terms in the question.
2. Correctly explain the key concepts and content related to the question.
3. Correctly include several specifics for each question.
4. Correctly state, where appropriate, the significance of the concepts. Why is this important to the study of American politics.