Introduction to American Government and Politics

Review: The First Examination Ole J. Forsberg, Ph.D. Creighton University

Layout

Section One: Fill-in-the-Blank

o There will be no 'word bank' for this section. You will need to know what little vocabulary we covered in class.

Section Two: Multiple Choice

You will need to select the option that best answers the question. Sometimes, you will be asked to choose the one that does not belong. Be aware.

Section Three: Philosophers and Philosophies

This section deals with the philosophers and philosophies we discussed in class. You should be able to categorize the philosophers and philosophies into commonalities. This means you should be able to find commonalities and differences between the political philosophers we have studied. There will be a 'Coffee Talk' question here.

Section Four: The Court Cases

o This section will mirror the two quizzes we have had on the court cases.

Section Five: Short Answers

o Answer the questions fully. Use your best handwriting.

Things to study

Philosophers and their Ilk

Not only should you know the basics of what each of these philosophers believe, but you should be able to group them thematically.

Aristotle

Burke, Edmund

Hobbes, Thomas

o Kuhn, Thomas

o Lakatos, Imre

o Locke, John

o Machiavelli, Niccolò

o Madison, James

o Marx, Karl

o Montesquieu

o Plato

o Popper, Karl

Things

- The Constitution
- o Marx's requirements for a communist revolution to occur
- o The ten things Marx thinks a communist state will have
- Marx's relationship with democracy and rural life
- o Requirements for a scientific hypothesis
- Definitions of Law, Theory, Fact, Hypothesis, Objective, Subjective, Intersubjective, Correlation, and Causation
- o Requirements for causation to be demonstrated
- o Four fundamental aspects of good political theory

- Social contract, State of nature
- o Electoral College, how it works, Faithless Electors
- Purpose of each of the three branches
- Origins of the Senate and the House
- o The philosophical basis of the US
- o The checks and balances within the US Government
- Lawmaking Process and Budgetary Process
- o The differences between OMB and CBO
- Elastic Clause, Interstate Commerce Clause, Due Process Clause, and Supremacy Clause
- Judicial Review and Parliamentary Supremacy
- o Your rights under the Constitution
- Basis of American Judicial System, Statute Law, Common Law, Adversarial System
- Natural Rights, Traditional Rights, Governmental Rights
- o Civil Liberties, Civil Rights
- Citation of Supreme Court cases (what the six parts mean). Ok: The "U.S." stands for "United States Reports", which is the title of the book series. Other federal courts in the US have other book series titles
- Political Question doctrine, Rule of Four, Habeas Corpus

Supreme Court Cases

For each of these cases, you will need to be able to give some (brief) background, the fundamental question (or one of them) and the answer the Supreme Court decided (not the vote count).

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