

POST 3170H - US Politics

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Course Code: POST 3170

When Taken: Fall 2022

12/09/2022 - Intro lecture

1. Lot of in class simulation - have to write a report on these
2. Major essay in class - and outline
 - a. Propose this essay topic - send pages of what you want to look at
 - b. US as a mediator in conflicts - one possible idea
3. Take home exam
4. Research essay
5. Domestic institution
 - a. Congress
 - b. The presidency
 - c. The judiciary
6. Issues
 - a. Race
 - b. Class and inequality
 - c. Covid-19
 - d. Money, the electoral system and polarization
 - e. China-US relations
 - f. Nationalism in America
 - g. Immigration
 - h. The future of US hegemony

Origins of the US

The colonies

1. 13 independent states with own legislation
2. Conflict arose with Britain over taxes and representation
3. Colonial expansion west and trade limited by crown treaties
4. They set a boundary of expansion
5. This led to a series of revolutionary acts
6. These were not a populist uprising, it was led by elites, and was mainly over taxes
 - a. Aristocracy angry over being overtaxed and being unable to expand their land
7. $\frac{1}{3}$ in favor of this revolution, $\frac{1}{3}$ against it and $\frac{1}{3}$ didn't care

Declaration of independence

1. Declaration of war on Britain
2. All people equal and endowed with natural inalienable rights
3. Government derives authority from the governed
4. Based on enlightenment values
5. Led to revolutionary war 1775-1783

Articles of confederation 1777

1. A confederation between states

2. Weak federal government
3. After the war this government was unable to fund a standing army
4. It didn't work
5. Congress couldn't tax or regulate trade
6. They couldn't work together and agree on anything
7. Veterans led a rebellion because they were not given their packages
 - a. They couldn't put the rebellion down, and it showed flaws in the system
8. Led to a congressional convention - had to create a somewhat stronger central government

Congressional convention

1. Did they want a strong central government to states rights
2. Virginia plan - bicameral based on population
3. New jersey plans - unicameral based on state
4. Connecticut compromise - all states equal representation in senate, rep by pop in house

Federalist papers

1. Advocated for constitution and centralized government
2. Intellectual basis for the US and how it is governed
3. Revolving factions in the US to prevent tyranny of the majority
4. Discussion of having judicial review

US constitution

1. House of rep based on pop
2. Senate elected by state legislature
3. Independent judiciary
4. President selected by the electoral college
5. System of checks and balances
6. Federalism with reserve power to the states

Bill of rights

1. First 10 amendments
2. Founded on liberal principles to protect the people from the government

Notable Amendments

1. First - freedom of religion
 - a. Interpreted - right to spend unlimited money to advertise political free speech
2. Second - right to bear arms
 - a. Can get guns really easily
 - b. Speaks of a well regulated militia
 - c. However, there are lots of guns, and not much regulation

Unresolved Issues

1. Relative power of the federal government
2. Method of electing president and vice president - possible to have a tie
3. Slavery - how to count slaves, ethical and legal issues surrounding slavery
4. Role of the courts
5. Expansion of the franchise
6. Western expansion and land reform

America's original sins

1. Idea was that the presidency would be weak, and the parliament would be strong, with the judiciary being mostly ignored
 - a. Now presidency has a lot of power, congress does nothing, and judiciary sets the law
2. Slavery and insitutional racism
 - a. Built into political foundations and difficult to resolve
3. Expansionism
 - a. Desire for rule of the continent led to determination of first nations
4. Fear of central government
 - a. Challenges in dealing with international and domestic crisis
5. America's role internationally is a role of controversy
 - a. They do a lot of harm, but can also help through policy and aid
 - b. They are both strengthening economic ties with china, as well as building their military up against them
6. Division po power
 - a. Led to more port in private hand
7. Class and economic inequality
 - a. Protection of wealth has led to vast poverty and a weak welfare state
 - b. The structure of the senate mans that 20% of the pop can prevent anything from being passed

Founding ideals of America

1. American individualism - most individualistic people in the world, successes are due to you, anyone can do it
2. Skepticism of the role of government - exists on the left and right
 - a. Government plays a large role in the lives of canadians, and the government mostly works pretty well
3. Tradition of commerce and trade - emphasis on making you own business
4. Rule of law, and the separation of the church and state
 - a. There is not a separation of religion and politics, but there is a separation of church and state
5. Immigrant country
6. City on a hill
7. Land of opportunity
8. Country of a lot of contradictions

The end of US hegemony

1. Worst inequality since 1930s
2. Protest
3. Rise of china, russia
4. The EU
5. Emerging economies also showing signs of economic growth
6. America is in a number of different crisis
7. America is in democratic decline

Course Outline

1. Essay outline due on Oc 14 - 2-3 pg proposal with sources

2. Essay due Nov 13 - 10 pages on essay topic proposed
3. Simulation report - write a report on one of the simulations that you do and talk about it, write what you learned about the us
4. Attendance is 10% - show up
5. Take home exam 30% have a month to do it?

Decent News sources

1. The economist - checks and balances podcast
2. New york times
3. Washington post
4. Associated press
5. Vox

Week 2: The Presidency

Sept. 19/ 2022 - Eva's Notes

1. In the constitution:
 - a. The president today is not what was intended when the constitution was written
 - b. Head of state & head of government
 - c. Commander-in-chief of the armed forces
 - d. In charge of foreign policy
 - i. Kept in check by the senate
 - e. Appoints judges with approval from congress
 - f. Can veto congress
 - i. However can be overridden
 - g. Can grant pardons
2. Presidential powers:
 - a. Veto bills into laws
 - b. "Pocket veto"
 - i. Congress is not in session and the president doesn't actually sign it
 - c. Appoints staff in the bureaucracy with congressional approval from the senate
 - d. Executive Privilege
 - i. Can withhold information if it jeopardised national security
3. The founding fathers' intentions for the president:
 - a. Weak executive, they wanted power to be given to congress
 - b. Foreign policy power is limited
 - c. Commander in chief
 - i. But they intended on having a small standing army
 - d. Veto power
 - i. BUT not if Congress had a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority
 - e. Cincinnatus
 - i. Power expands during time of war & retracts during times of peace
4. Now ... more power than originally intended (this is controversial)
 - a. Signing statement
 - i. When a bill is signed into law, a president can state how they intend the law to be implemented
 - b. Executive order

- i. President offers directives to federal agencies
- 5. Informal Powers of a President
 - a. Bully Pulpit
 - i. People listen to a president (nationally and internationally people pay attention to what they have to say)
 - b. State of the Nation
 - i. Annual address to the public where they outline what people should care about
 - c. Power of persuasion
 - i. Ask congress to pass bills / ask people to call their congressperson
 - d. Speak out OR ignore social issues
 - i. EX: Reagan with the Aids crisis and Obama with same-sex marriage
 - e. Now presidents have the power of social media on their side
- 6. The Electoral College
 - a. Each state votes based on congressional delegation (at least 3)
 - b. Each state picks electors
 - c. Faithless electors are a real possibility
 - d. Winner doesn't always get the national popular vote
- 7. Problems with the electoral college
 - a. People aren't directly voting for a president
 - b. Some states aren't competitive
 - i. They won't have any lawn signs bc they know that their state is going to vote a certain way
 - c. Smaller states have exaggerated power
 - i. Technically you can win with only 10 states
 - d. Each state decides the rules of electors and the voting system
 - i. Some have physical ballots, others have electronic voting - it all depends on the state
 - e. A tie is possible, and it would be decided on by congress
- 8. Swing States
 - a. Can vote either way
 - b. New swing states are emerging because american political geography is changing
 - c. There have been dramatic changes in the past
 - d. California used to be REPUB AHHHHHHHHH
 - e. Georgia and Arizona are new swing states
- 9. Presidential Primaries
 - a. Supporters of a party vote for a presidential candidate
 - b. There is a hell-of-a-lot of money in this motherfucker
 - c. And money matters until it doesn't (Jeb Bush raised \$160 million in 2016 and still lost)
- 10. The Modern President
 - a. Brought on by the great depression
 - b. FDR won by a landslide in 1932 with a democratic congress

- c. New deal programs
 - d. Still constrained by the courts
- 11. An International Trend
 - a. States have been becoming more centralised since the 1870s (Not sure if this is right Molly bc it doesn't make sense to me, so the year might be wrong ill ask in class)
- 12. The Made for TV President
 - a. The president can address the nation directly to promote their agenda
 - b. Presidents are usually elected based on a platform
 - c. Modern presidential system attracts those that are good communicators and charismatic
 - d. Presidential elections and primaries are LARGE scale affairs
- 13. Imperial President?
 - a. The cold war made the US and global super-power
 - b. The bully pulpit was important once forms of communication became advanced enough for the president to be able to address the nation
- 14. War Powers Resolution: 1973
 - a. Goal was to limit the power of the president over foreign policy
 - b. Post 2006 mid-terms, the democratic congress had won with an unpopular president (Bush Jr)
 - c. Congress wanted to withdraw from Iraq but Bush committed more troops
- 15. Less than meets the eye:
 - a. Executive has considerable digression over foreign policy
 - b. Congress cares more about local issues but they care about key economic issues
 - i. Ex: Israel, Cuba, Iran
- 16. President is most effective in the first year of their first term
 - a. After that their basically bust campaigning
- 17. Is being President the worst job ever?
 - a. Family is usually place for ridicule and scrutiny
 - b. Emphasis on fundraising and communications
 - c. Usually polarizing figure for at least half of the country
 - d. Long hours (16+ hour days)
 - e. Difficult to keep party loyalty
 - f. Subject to frequent parody and threats
- 18. Impeaching a president
 - a. Really not that hard to do
 - i. Impeached by the house, removed by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the house
 - b. List of impeached presidents
 - i. Andrew Johnson
 - ii. Bill Clinton
 - iii. Richard Nixon
 - iv. Donald Trump
- 19. 25th Amendment: Presidential Succession

- a. If the president dies then the VP becomes president
- 20. Problems with the presidency (not the occupant)
 - a. The electoral college is unfair
 - b. The executive branch is too large
 - c. First presidency is the most productive (so is 2 terms 2 long)
- 21. Are presidents good for a system?
 - a. Presidential systems lend themselves to “outsiders” not part of the system
 - b. They are separated from their base of power
 - i. Nationally elected
 - c. Their length in office is problematic
 - i. The six year curse

Week 3

Lecture 3 - Congress, Primaries and Polarization

1. First simulation today
2. What did the framers intend for the congress
 - a. Wanted it to be the most energetic branch with significant power
 - b. Contrast to a strong executive
 - c. Do most of the governing
 - d. Make laws, spend money, declare war
 - e. House of representatives elected every two years to keep up with changing times
 - f. Senate is more deliberative, represent states with six year terms
3. Parties
 - a. People today really identify as with parties
 - b. Did not want the permanent factions like had occurred in the UK
 - c. Hope was for constant forming and reforming coalitions in society
 - d. Local representation was important - especially in the house of representatives, wanted reps to speak their mind about their local issues, not bound by partisan affiliation
 - e. Yet after founding (basically immediately after) parties appears and have remained a common feature of american life
 - f. Most democratic countries develop these parties
4. Fear of tyranny of the majority
 - a. Did not want the majority of the population to be able to oppress minority
 - b. Didn't want them to oppress the money minority
 - c. Created a bicameral legislature to balance interests and check power
 - d. Further checks of court and executive intended to slow down will of the majority
 - e. States were also given significant power
 - f. There was a constant check on power being concentrated
5. Powers of congress
 - a. Financial power of the purse
 - i. Raise taxes, spend money, incur national debt, regulate trade
 - b. Legal
 - i. Issue laws, money, override veto

- c. Declare war and raise army
 - i. Congress has only declared war 5 times, majority of their conflicts were passed through laws
- 6. House of representatives
 - a. The people's branch
 - b. 435 voting members based on population
 - c. Up for election every 2 years
 - d. Be more responsive, less deliberative
 - e. Meet the national mood
 - f. Tend to have diverse interests
 - i. Often these people would not get elected on the state level
 - g. Divided into committees, and subcommittees
- 7. Senate
 - a. 100 members, 2 perstate
 - b. Six year term
 - i. Don't have to meet the pulse as much, are more able to deliberate
 - ii. Are able to make more unpopular decisions
 - iii. As they represent a whole state they are often more moderate
 - c. $\frac{1}{3}$ up for election every 2 years
 - d. Filibuster allowed
 - i. Talk a bill to death
 - e. To end debate 60 votes are needed for closure
 - f. Check on foreign policy and executive
 - g. Gives 20% of the us population a veto
- 8. Congressional committees
 - a. Standing and special committees on policies now also sub committees
 - b. Appointments based on seniority
 - c. Can call hearings form experts, interest groups of celebrities
 - d. Legislation often fails in committee and doesn't make to to the house or senate floor
- 9. Differences with westminster system
 - a. Weaker parties - whips cannot force party allegiance in the US, don't have to vote along party lines, very strong parties in westminster system
 - b. In the US the senate regularly vetoes and introduces laws
 - c. US party leaders are incredibly weak - they cannot kick people out that they don't want. To be a member of a party you just have to declare that you are
 - d. Larger constituencies
 - e. No confidence votes
 - f. Primaries - national leaders don't approve candidates
- 10. The development of congress
 - a. Congress was very powerful in the 1800s
 - b. Congress was there to amplified monied interests
 - c. Senate gives a small segment of the population a veto
 - d. Congress has a 11% approval rating regularly but a 96% re-election rate

- i. There is only a small segments of seats that are regularly contested
 - e. Congress has faced significant divisions before
 - i. Lead up to civil war they tried to comprimse on the issue of slavery
 - ii. Post civil war republicans wanted to punish the south
 - iii. Coalition of conservative democrats and republicans prevented substantial remform after 1937
 - iv. Gincriche's contract with america showed more polarization
 - f. Very high reelection rate even during periods of upheaval
- 11. Why does this happen
 - a. Incumbents have a fundraising advantage
 - b. They have free mail outs and name recognition
 - c. Weak party system which means that each person represents their constituents
 - i. People tend to love their congressperson, but will often hate congress
 - d. Gerrymandering prevents challengers
 - i. This is decided by state legislatures
 - e. Pork - idea that people bring home things from washington to your district
 - i. Bring home jobs to your state
- 12. Gerrymandering
 - a. Congressional boundaries decided by state housing
 - b. Some states have moved to non-partisan redistricting commissions
 - c. Each party has an interest in gerrymandering
 - d. Now states can introduce other barriers to access
- 13. Why is congress more polarized
 - a. American society is more polarized
 - b. Conflicts have extended into government as parties align along these major issues
 - c. Party activist engaged in promoting ideas
 - d. More money available to paint opponents
 - e. Party system doesn't ensure moderation
 - f. People live in political bubbles
 - g. Parties have become more extreme
- 14. Role of primaries
 - a. To be a representative you first have to be selected by voters of their own party - this leads to candidates being more extreme
 - b. Local party members are able to choose a candidate
 - c. If the representative is moderate, then they may face a primary challenger
 - d. Threats of primary competition are associated with partisan polarization
- 15. Consequences of inaction
 - a. Only 4% of bills introduced pass congress
 - b. Budget highly contentious
 - c. American government has periodic shutdowns
 - d. Polarization can cause crisis
 - e. Inaction can lead to threatening long term prosperity
- 16. Weak parties and strong partisanship

- a. American parties have few gatekeepers - anyone can become involved in a party
 - b. Being involved in partisanship often just means hating the other party
 - c. High levels of political and regional diversity within parties
 - d. System founded on composites, but the system does not reward compromise
 - e. Primaries incentivise radicals
17. Why is unified government unproductive
- a. Diversity within parties make it difficult for stable governing coalitions even with majority
 - b. Senate rules provide the minority of senators to block laws
 - c. Small groups of moderate senators can hold up legislation
 - d. Difficult in house for leadership to get more ideological members to vote
18. Since founding of republic
- a. Foreign policy was left of precedence
 - b. Policy making often left to states or courts
 - c. Polarization has means there was congressional inaction
 - d. Cost of inaction is potentially very high

Simulation

1. Congress - newly elected republicans
2. Democrat presidency
3. Dem and rep 50%
4. Debt - 28 trillion
5. 5% unemployment
6. Dow - 30,000
7. PPM co2 - 430
8. Want to try to make republicans unpopular
9. Issues we have to solve
 - a. Texas budget deficit
 - b. Need budget bailout of 500B
 - c. Layoffs and job problems

Aimee

1. Given the budget deficit Teas is requesting a budget bailout of 500B
2. We propose giving them 200B
3. Let negotiate up to 250B
4. Supplying jobs
 - a. two hundred thousand jobs
 - b. Long term, pension plan, full time
 - c. Ten percent immigrant workers - no outsourcing to other countries
 - d. Negotiate down to five percent, or none
5. Net zero in fifteen years, get the rest of the money
 - a. Three payments - every five years get lump sum if they have decreased
 - b. Payment every fiscal quarter

What they want

1. 200B
2. Techm oil and gas
3. No pork, no funding for immigration
4. 4% tax slash across the board
5. Both approval ratings went down
6. Economic downturn
7. Increased unemployment
8. Narrative that both parties walked away, as there was no agreement (we don't think they fully understood our plan)

Debt 28T

Unemployment 7

Dow 28000

PPM 435

GM is going to go bankrupt

1. Want 1.5 T bailout
2. Cap and trade - like california - carbon tokens
 - a. government sets a cap on the maximum level of emissions and creates permits, or allowances, for each unit of emissions allowed under the cap
3. Contingent on creation of new jobs
 - a. 1T now, 500B in a year to all companies that increase this job number in the auto industry if 600,000 jobs within the first year in car companies overall

What they want

1. 750b now, 250b later if jobs are created - focus on decreasing our spending
2. Roll out cap and trade over a longer period of time - settled on 11 years
3. Their support ratings went down after this plan as they had agreed with the democrats

China has invaded taiwan

1. Bailout 500B in aid
 - a. Money, equipment, humanitarian aid
2. Refugees - yes
3. Red cross
 - a. American peacekeepers, international observers
 - b. NGOs incentivised to offer aid
 - c. 650B
4. We are okay with pork
5. Tariffs
 - a. Tech giants
 - b. American made

What they want

1. Okay with 500B - 700B
2. Increased focus on military aid
3. Not cool with refugees

Things we learned from this

1. Government is inefficient
 - a. Each party does not have a strong party line
 - b. The "republicans" in this experiment were fractured. Some were concerned about spending, others about having a strong economy, strong military, or being anti-immigration
 - c. The congress did not come into discussions with a policy, but rather came in with several things they wanted, and different levels of wanting to negotiate
2. Each party sometimes seems to not be negotiating on the same issue
 - a. With the texas conversation, the democratic presidents were talking about direct bailouts to the government, whereas the republicans wanted bailouts of specific companies, and tax cuts
 - b. These are not the same issue, and prevented progress as the basic facts to be negotiated on was not established

3. There was a repeated threat of each party not wanting to be the first to walk away, or give up something
 - a. The republicans threatened to “phone up the press” and claim that the democratic precedent had walked away from the negotiations
4. The most successful negotiations for us were the ones where not all the facts were presented - ie. don't discuss the population of taiwan, or brush past the cap and trade implications
 - a. While this was successful for us, these things might not be successful for government overall because the negotiators would be far more versed in their own issues
5. They were concerned with their constituents
 - a. Texas wanted money for himself in the first scenario, but was very unwilling to spend in subsequent negotiations
6. The more complicated plan that we created in the first scenario wasn't fully understood, so it did not pass

Week 4

Lecture: The US Supreme Court

1. No class next week
2. Proposals are due on the 14th - talk about them today
3. The supreme court does not follow the Constitution
4. Intentions of the founders
 - a. Federalist 78 had Hamilton call the court the least dangerous branch
 - b. Judiciary was to be the weakest of the three because it has no sword or purse, just has a judgement
 - i. Court couldn't spend money or enforce laws, just creates judgement
5. Limitations of the court
 - a. It has no popular constituency, confirmed by congress
 - b. How the power of judicial review, but limited resources for enforcement
 - c. Disregard any laws as unconstitutional, but this is a reactionary decision, laws do not originate with courts
6. Power of the supreme court
 - a. Article three of the constitution
 - b. An appellate course
 - c. May hold office during good behaviour - ambiguously worded
 - d. Preside over impeachment
 - e. Hear cases made between states in federal jurisdiction or over constitutional issues
 - i. Can hear cases when there are disputes between states
7. The constitutional overview (what the constitution says about the governor)
 - a. Congress is given the most power
 - b. Presidency is weak
 - c. January is a weak check on congress and the executive
8. Judicial review

- a. Very powerful
 - b. Originated with Marbury V Madison
 - i. Adams lost 1800 election and made appointments to judiciary
 - ii. Marshall (a justice) ruled the court was an appellate court
 - iii. Marshall ruled that the supreme court could rule a law unconstitutional
 - iv. Set power of judicial review - supreme court has final say
 - c. Supreme court ruled that it has final reive over laws
 - d. This was not intended in the constitution, they adopted judicial review
 - e. Last say over american legislation is the courts
9. Judicial review vs restraint
- a. Should courts review laws or leave it to democratically elected institutions to govern
 - i. The court in canada will rule on things and then give parlement a year to respond
 - b. Courts are often filled with legal specialists while congress represents the population
 - c. Review is not always progressive
10. Judicial activism
- a. Arguments
 - i. Courts must be vigilant in defending rights
 - ii. Congress may be swayed by the whims of majority
 - iii. A check on other branches of government
 - iv. Court doesn't have to appeal to a constituency, so can rule based on specialist expertise
 - b. Arguments against
 - i. No popular constituency - nobody votes for these people
 - ii. These people may not always be experts, are typically quite old
 - iii. Up to the legislature to create laws and executive to enforce
 - iv. Intent to be "least dangerous branch"
 - v. Not accountable to electorate as they are appointed not elected
 - vi. Often long-term appointments, may not follow with the times, may be there until they die
11. Contemporary judicial philosophies
- a. Constructionism
 - i. Courts should not reinterpret the constitution, but leave it to the legislative and executive to pass laws. Emphasis on founders intent
 - ii. Usually what conservatives look at
 - iii. Thin view of constitutional framework
 - iv. Congress can go beyond the constitution, but courts shouldnt
 - b. Living document
 - i. Constitution must grow and meets with the times, cannot be constrained by intent of the founders
 - ii. Interpreted in a much broader and living way
 - iii. Apply generously to contemporary context

12. Comforting the comfortable?

- a. This is largely a conservative wealth check
- b. Judges usually come from ivy league schools
- c. Typically judges come from wealth and privilege
- d. Progressive court a new phenomena - the court is not typically a progressive thing, the progressive decisions they made were more of a blip
- e. Most appointed 50+ and don't always keep up with the times
- f. Constitution a built in conservative check on government
 - i. Canadian constitutionalism was a liberal constitution with liberal rights
 - ii. The american revolution was a conservative revolution, and conditions was written by landowning aristocrats

13. Evolution of court

- a. 1800-1865 - debate over the power of central government vs states, more state power post 1936
- b. 1890s-1937 - debate about economic rights vs individual rights, time of labour activism and courts sided with business
- c. 1938-1954 - increasing role of government
- d. 1955-1985 - civil rights
- e. 1986-2005 - restrain and states rights
- f. 2006-present - original intent and privacy

14. Activist governments mean activist courts

- a. FDR packed the courts with more justices to get his legislation through
- b. Laws were allied to remain despite inding on economic rights

15. Presidents usually appoint justices that are similar to their ideology

- a. Appointments often views as part of preisdents legacy
- b. While they appoint people voer similar ideological lines, thought often more moderates
- c. Trump campaigned on appointing very conservative justices
- d. Sometimes justices become more liberal over time

16. Significant cases

- a. Plessy v ferguson - legalised segregation
- b. SHenk vs the US - limitation on speech
- c. National labour relations board v jones et al - corporate personhood
- d. Brown v board of education - end of legal segregation
- e. Miranda v arizona - incomed of rights upon arrest
- f. Roe v wade - legalised aboriton
- g. Bush v gore - stopped florida recount
- h. Gonzales v carhart - help partial birth aboriton ban act
- i. Citizens united v fec - campaign spending - money = speech
- j. NFIB v sebelius - obama care ruled constitutional
- k. Harris v quin - certain public workers cannot be compelled to join a union

17. Politicians of the court

- a. Has dramatic powers to overturn laws
- b. Nominating a judge goes through a politicised process

- c. Robert bork was denied confirmation
 - d. Tend to get more liberal or conserpatvie over time
 - e. Often come down on ideological lines though there are some moderates
18. Should courts lead or follow public opinion
- a. Courts can often entrench new minority rights for entire country
 - b. Can lead popular backlash among opposition groups
 - c. However attention cna sway public opinion once they become informed on an issue
 - d. Can force reluctant politician to address an issue
19. The south is not always progressive
20. The court is reluctant to rule against the death penalty
21. These courts may have been effective in saving american democracy
- a. Didn't hear Trump's cases even though he had appointed them
22. Why have courts become dysfunction
- a. Dysfunction of congress to govern
 - b. Litigiousness of american society
 - c. Constitutional rights guaranteed
 - d. Judges are well-known figures
 - e. Presidential legacy
23. Criticisms of court
- a. Powerful and partisan
 - b. No longer the least dangerous branch
 - c. It can defend civil rights or take them away
 - d. The court does not intervene in executive functions - when the president decides to do something they don't intervene frequently for international issues
 - e. Not democratically accountable
 - f. It can misread the times

Simulation - supreme court

1. Young man in ohio, murderd ex wife and family in fit of rage, sentence to deal
 - a. Has become a born again christain and the type of death pentaliy, lethal injection, is cruel and unisal punishment
 - b. Aruging that he should be put to death
 - c. Look at eight amendment
2. Our argument
 - a. Noble historical firing squad
 - b. Greater sucess rate
 - c. Justice of the famiy hes killed, justice for them
3. Their arugment
 - a. Not fair to kill, as she desecrated their family
 - b. Brougth to hospital for pshycolocgiac testing as he is mentally ill
4. Judges questions
 - a. Did he not volate the rights of his wife and family memers when he murdered her, whats to say he is reformed - argue that he is clearly reformed using opinon of pastor

- b. Is the death penalty cruel and unusual

Simulation 2

1. Holocaust remembrance day neonazis want to have a public protest
2. ordinance that they are not allowed to
3. Supreme court has upheld the ordinance
4. Violate freedom of expression
5. Arguing for the nazis
 - a. Nazis freedom of expression should be allowed
 - b. Not a threat, just want to express themselves
 - c. Without probable cause there is no crime yet permitted
 - d. Deny their right to walk through a neighborhood
 - e. Preemptive case - trigger happy
 - f. Hate is not a crime to be punished on, no crime has been committed as of yet
6. Arguing against
 - a. Is it preemptive
 - b. Arguing that walking through the neighborhood is equivalent of throwing lighter into pool of gas
 - c. Fighting words - fighting words are words that could constitute or incite violence
 - d. Miller test
7. Discussion after
 - a. Patriot act - arguing that neonazis were terrorist, find their true intentions,
8. Decision constructionist approach - have to let it occur
9. A liberal court allowed the march to occur

Scenario 3

1. Two couples want to get married together
2. Obergefell - do not have equal protections under the law
3. 14th amendment
4. Rights to marry whoever they want
5. Our argument
 - a. Don't want to stand against their civil union
 - b. Should be recognized under the law - contractually same as a civil union
 - c. Want the legal rights of marriage
 - d. Why should the state be able to dictate their private lives
6. Their argument
 - a. Jesus had one wife
 - b. Honour of being with multiple women
 - c. Unfair advantages of having multiple spouses
 - d. Loose tax money
7. Challenge of looking at the constitution alone for things that are moral
8. Judges decisions
 - a. Liberty for all, extend to polygamy

Overall

1. Precedent is flimsy
2. Easier to make decisions because there is no voter base

3. Look at one document and have to interpret this differently
4. The law is often blind to power imbalances, like polygamy
5. Legal precinct is quite thin

Week 5

Lecture - Race in America

1. Essay proposal getting it back next week
2. Poll test - poor and African Americans have to do a test before they are allowed to vote
 - a. Literacy test
3. Race in America
 - a. America adopted the melting pot model
 - b. Racism comes from different reasons - labour movement, ideological, economic
 - c. Lots of intersections
4. America goes through different phases
 - a. Slavery - 1620 - 1865
 - b. Age of segregation - 1871 - 1955
 - i. Tried at one point to be an inclusive democracy, but this failed and they went to segregation
 - c. Age of mass incarceration - 1980 - 2010
 - d. Age of mass deportation? - 2011 - ?
5. Slavery
 - a. Chattel slavery - treated individuals as objects
 - b. Debate of how to deal with slavery was at the founding of the republic - they were comprised to be 3/5ths a person
 - c. Slave and free states divided at the Mason-Dixon line
 - d. Industrialised US cotton production - very productive in the south
 - i. Prolonged slavery and made it more lucrative
6. Led to the civil war
 - a. Dred Scott case ruled no Black person could be a citizens
 - b. Led to the rise of the republican party and Abraham Lincoln in the 1850s
7. After the war
 - a. North won and tried to punish the south through reconstruction
 - b. Promised freed slaves 40 acres and a mule - but this never happened
 - c. Idea was land reform in the south would empower them
 - d. Demonstration of how legal and economic rights are quite different
 - e. 1876 Hayes election - north armies moved out and democrats and KKK regained control of the south - time of terror and violence and widespread disenfranchisement of Black people in the south
8. Segregation
 - a. Plessy V Ferguson - upheld separate but equal doctrine
 - b. Led to the ghettoization of Black people
 - c. South ruled by democrats
 - d. Second periods of the KKK 1915-1944, almost 6 million members
 - e. Lasted until Brown V Board of Education in 1954

- f. Redlining still exists
- 9. Countermovement towards recognition
 - a. Civil rights movement started after WW2 in 50s and 60s
 - b. General agreement between parties on civil rights signed in 1964
 - c. General programs to deal with poverty and unemployment in the Black community
- 10. Radicalism within the Black Community
 - a. Schism between more militant and reformist wings
 - b. Key leaders imposed, shot or targeted by the FBI
 - c. Black counter culture became widespread
 - d. Movement deradicalized in the 1980s
- 11. Backlash
 - a. Nixon had a southern strategy for a law and order platform
 - b. Southern whites began to leave the democratic party for the republicans - period of time where they had two wings, to then this turning into a left and right wing party
 - c. Halt in growth of government programs
- 12. Race is now aligned with political affiliation
 - a. Black people vote 90-95% democrats
 - b. Minimal number of conservative black members in congress
 - c. Not a unified movement or views but vote democrat regardless
- 13. America gathers a lot of race based data on their census
- 14. Single parent families
 - a. African americans are more likely to be born into single parent families
 - b. Less likely to have education attainment, more of a change to committee violence offences, more likely to be a single parents, less overall economic outcomes
- 15. Poverty
 - a. Poverty is intergenerational
- 16. School
 - a. Public school system is funded 46% by state 48% local and federal government
 - i. Local funding based on property taxes
 - b. No single formula based on per capita per student
 - c. Local funded based on property taxes
 - d. No child left behind passed in 2002 gave money for students who meet educational standards
 - e. Dramatically different per capita spending per student
 - f. When the school is less funded there are higher dropout rates
- 17. Threshold for a minimum drug sentence
 - a. White and black people use drugs in relatively similar amounts
 - b. Need far more to go to jail for drugs mainly white people use
 - c. Black people are far more likely to go to jail for drug use
- 18. Why such high incarceration rates
 - a. Penalise what black people did - stiffer penalties
 - b. Mandatory sentencing for crimes particularly drug crimes

- i. Take away judge's discretion
 - c. Three strike laws were non-violent drug offences were put away for 20 years if charged 3 times
 - d. Prison industrial complex - lobby for tougher sentences and fund tough on crime judges
 - e. Very high rates of incarceration for Black men
 - f. Main reason for incarceration is non-violent drug offences
19. Police and race
- a. Changes in police training techniques in the 1980s
 - b. Militarization of the police
 - c. Black male under 25 has a 28% chance of being stopped, white male 12.5% in Kansas city
 - d. Militarization of policing has lead to more fatalities
20. HIV/AIDS
- a. Make up 46% of all diagnoses
 - b. Mainly spread through heterosexual sex
 - c. 28% live in poverty
21. Sex Education
- a. 26 states emphasise abstinence only sex education
 - b. 23 states teach comprehensive sex education and HIV prevention
 - c. 11 states teach abstinence only and no HIV prevention
 - d. The US has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the developed world
22. The US has a formal separation of church and state, but their sex ed has a fear of sexuality resulting in abstinence only sex ed
23. Race in the labour market
- a. Black male workers earn about 74% of a white male worker
 - b. Does vary significantly based on education attainment
 - c. Globalisation has played a role in cutting the wages of low wage workers
24. Recent political events
- a. Obama elected in 2008
 - b. Schools now more segregated as white people have moved to the suburbs
 - c. Reforms in sentencing in Texas
 - d. Black teenagers killed
 - e. US has more people in prison than Stalinist Russia
25. BLM (Black lives matter)
- a. Black people are 3 more times more likely to be killed by police than white people
 - b. Mass protests against racial profiling
 - c. Nearly 1/3 killed in 2015 were unarmed
 - d. Turning point was George Floyd killing - but only a temporary reckoning
26. Why is it still an issue
- a. American myth based on freedom - Americans turn a blind eye to history and structure as they think that people are free to succeed, without taking into account the barriers to this success and freedom
 - b. Teaching of history and critical race theory politicised

- c. Legal reform but not economic reform
- d. Structural racism not institutional
- e. Internal barriers to progress

Seminar

1. People don't react to instability with revolution they react with facism

Week 6

Lecture - Women in America

1. Going to get an extension on the paper assignment as we don't have our proposals back - the 26th new due date
2. America is the outlier - what are the social political and economic indicators that lead to this outcome
3. No single lived experience - lots of intersections
4. The Suffragette movement was often led by white upper-middle-class women
5. Feminists key to other progressive movements
6. Third-wave feminism challenges coherent identities and politics
7. Early history
 - a. Women earned the right to vote in 1919
 - b. Women faced discrimination in the workforce - married women were often dismissed
 - c. WW2 women entered the workforce but were expected to return to clerical jobs after the war
 - d. The 1950s emphasised their role as homemakers while men were the sole breadwinner
 - e. As women gained economic power they started to demand political power as well
8. The 1960s and feminism
 - a. Kennedy started a commission on the status of women
 - b. The report noted discrimination against women in a variety of areas
 - c. Equal pay acts and other labour acts made it illegal to pay men more, or fire women for having a family
9. 1970s
 - a. Started to gain a lot of ground, but there were also limitations demonstrated and resistance against the movement
 - b. Domestic violence and marital rape became the focus of many groups
 - c. The movement was divided between radicals and mainstream
10. Roe V Wade
 - a. Landmark ruling
 - b. Lead to the politicisation of conservative church groups
11. Equal rights amendment
 - a. Amendment proposed, controversial
 - b. Said that you couldn't discriminate based on sex
 - c. It failed
 - i. Defeated by a coalition of insurance groups and religious evangelicals
 - ii. Anti-feminist groups attacked it and viewed it as an attack on the family

- iii. Schlafly argued it would lead to women being drafted into the military and unisex bathrooms
- iv. Republicans emphasised traditional gender roles at the start of the Reagan revolution

12. Pay gap

- a. Women earn less
- b. Less likely to be hired at childbearing age - not a formalized form of discrimination
- c. Others argue it's due to the occupational choices of women
- d. Hard to address the formal and informal forms of discrimination

13. Federally mandated parental leave

- a. Does vary from state to state, some counted as part of disability benefits
- b. New mothers are only allowed 12 weeks of unpaid leave
- c. Corporations lobby against having to pay insurance for women taking time off

14. Why are they the outlier - possible explanations

- a. Veto points - many ways for legislation to be held up at the state and national level
- b. Economic inequality - power in the hands of the wealthy, no interest group that is strong to lobby against anti-poverty
- c. Lack of women in power
- d. Poverty was correlated with race
- e. The American system of checks and balances limits the size and scope of government

15. Women in politics and business

- a. Formal barriers to entry have largely disappeared
- b. Women increasingly attending college and university
- c. Still less likely to be in political power in companies or be CEOs

16. Why inequalities persist

- a. Women tend to work in a more bipartisan manner and the government is increasingly polarised
- b. Barriers to entry since institutions are traditionally male
- c. Helps to have money, pay and wealth gap persist in business and politics
- d. Women are also scrutinised in a different way than men

17. Kanter - four roles of professional women

- a. Seductress or sex object, mother, pet or child, or iron maiden
- b. Prevents women from wanting to enter politics

18. Overcoming these boundaries

- a. Increasing spending on education for girls
- b. Public awareness against sex discrimination and patriarchy
- c. Awareness raising about the benefits
- d. Representation matters - shows young women they can be there too
 - i. The role model effect has been measured and it is important
- e. There have been some successes in American politics

19. Congressional committee 2012 on contraception

- a. The committee investigated whether requiring insurers to cover birth control violated religious freedom
 - b. Religious organisations aren't required to pay for prescriptions themselves but the insurance companies did have to include it in their health care plan
- 20. Hillary Clinton lost, partially because of sexism, but also because other factors played a significant role
- 21. MeToo in America
 - a. Abuse of power to sexually exploit people
 - b. This led to shaming and cancelling of abusers
 - c. Foundation raised 25 million to support survivors
 - d. 19 states enacted sexual harassment protections
- 22. Abortion access in America
 - a. States have increasingly prevented access to abortion
 - b. Congress has tried to limit funding
 - c. Before Dobbs, there were a lot of things that further limited abortion access
 - d. Trump filled the courts with conservative justices both at the state and federal level
- 23. Summary
 - a. Feminism made major strides but there has been a conservative backlash since the 1980s
 - b. Formal barriers have largely been limited but there are numerous informal barriers to equality
 - c. Many women's rights have been threatened by organised groups at the state level

Lecture 2 - Religion in America

- 1. Early America
 - a. Founded by people fleeing religious persecution in Europe
 - b. Liberalism is based on challenging authority particularly religious authority
 - c. They didn't want one religion dominating the political system
 - d. The founding fathers were sceptical of organised religion
 - e. Founders created a state that allowed religion in the private realm and insulated the government from a single religion
- 2. First Amendment
 - a. Government cannot create an official state religion or give one preference
 - b. Does not explicitly say there is separation of church and state
 - c. Does not reference Christianity or Jesus
- 3. Religion in early America
 - a. The great awakening of the 1740s spread the religion throughout America
 - b. Churches were a central meeting point
 - c. Religion was also used among slaves as a form of salvation or solidarity
 - d. Early emancipation movement often used religion
- 4. Alexis De Tocqueville (1835)
 - a. Argued that religion in America was a friend of freedom
 - b. Religious life helped promote freedom and democracy

- c. Organised religion was a long-term counterweight to democracies threats - materialism and religious fanaticism
- 5. Religion and slavery
 - a. Used by slaves and abolitionists
 - b. Slavery was also justified in the bible
 - c. Black churches remain a feature of African American communities
- 6. Limitations
 - a. Reynolds V United States - charged the LDS church for bigamy, the court ruled religious duty not a defence against religious inditement
 - b. Admission of Utah into the country meant they had to ban plural marriage
- 7. 20th-century modernist fundamentalist clash
 - a. As government expanded its role it often clashed with local and state rights
 - b. Discoveries of evolution and darwin led to fundamentalist movements against secular education
 - c. Government and courts caught between consumption and cultural and religious norms
- 8. Religion was also used for patriotism in the cold war as the USSR was a secular state
 - a. Added a motto in god we trust to paper money
- 9. Scopes monkey trial - 1925
 - a. Accused of teaching evolution in schools
 - b. Created anti-evolution movement and the modernist movement
- 10. Cannot have school prayer in schools, cannot require it
- 11. Disallowed using public money to fund religious schools - produced the lemon test
- 12. Roe v wade led to the politicisation of evangelicals
 - a. Republican party began courting them and promoting social conservatism
- 13. Republican shift to the right
 - a. Moderates ran the party until the 1950s
 - b. South split after 1968 brought many more conservatives into the party
 - c. Reagan then courted the moral majority, social conservatives and evangelicals
 - d. The party has continued to become more conservative, particularly socially
- 14. Politics of religion
 - a. Regan came to office but after 8 years had very little to show in terms of the policy
 - b. Moral majority and Christian groups backed Bush
 - c. Mish of the focus is on national politics and on local and school boards
- 15. Not just a conservative phenomenon
 - a. Many on the religious left use Christian values to promote social justice
 - b. Several divisive issues seem to be fading such as gay marriage
- 16. Protestantism and roman catholic are the first two largest religions
 - a. Southern and a northern bible belt - this is where religiosity is centred around, other areas are less religious
- 17. Generational shift, religion is on the decline
 - a. America is still a generation or two behind
 - b. Wealthier nations tend to be less religious

18. Why is America the outlier - high income but has a high religious affiliation
 - a. Separation of church and state creates a competitive marketplace for religious
 - b. Numerous denominations
 - c. Revivalist traditions date to the founding of America
 - d. Religion held together African American community
 - e. Economically vulnerable tend to be more religious
 - f. Ties between religion and nationalism in America
19. Religion in America today
 - a. Often used by politicians
 - b. Counts remain strong in their defence of the establishment clause
 - c. Far more religiosity in their culture
20. Power of evangelicals that form a fairly defined voting bloc
21. The death penalty
 - a. Capital punishment used in 31 states
 - b. Temporarily band in 1972 but reintroduced in 1976
 - c. Usually for murder, typically lethal injection
 - d. 60% of americans support the death penalty
 - e. Death penalty - some are found innocent after, more expensive than life imprisonment, states with it have higher crime rates
 - f. More likely to receive the death penalty if the victim was white
 - g. Racialized, particularly black people are more likely to be placed on death row
22. Why is it still in place
 - a. SCOTUS has become more conservative
 - b. Public supports it
 - c. Retributive justice
 - d. Left up to the states to decide

Week 7

Elections in America

1. Prediction - republicans take house and senate
2. Government election
 - a. Presidency every 2
 - b. House every 2
 - c. Senate every 6
 - d. Governors every 4
3. Electoral system
 - a. Two party system - but there is a lot of variety within the party
 - b. First past the post system
 - c. Voters are over 18 but state legislatures determine eligibility, often deny those with felonies
 - d. Citizens must be registered to vote - except in north dakota - can't just show up and vote
 - e. Citizens declare affiliation with a political party

4. Elections in america
 - a. Decisions are local
 - b. Board of elections are quasi partisan
 - c. States make laws about how they vote
 - d. Amalgam of numerous voting systems rather than one giant election
5. Realigning elections
 - a. Dramatic changes in public support to one party becoming dominant, usually due to changes in society
 - b. Parties affiliate with winning combinations of social groups
 - c. Usually a 30-40 year cycle
 - d. Often contentious within the literature
6. Realigning elections
 - a. 1800 - win for antifederalists
 - b. 1860s - rise of republicans, slavery and reconstruction became issues
 - c. 1896 - republican dominance, US become international power, money's role in politics
 - d. 1932 - election of FDR where he got all states except 6
7. New deal coalition 1932-1968, created by FDR
 - a. Response to the great depression
 - b. Coalition of catholics, Jews, unions, southern whites and poor people - people affected by the depression
 - c. Used social programming and government spending
 - d. WW2 also fed the popularity of the democrats
 - e. Alignment stayed well into the 1960s
8. 1968 each of these parts of the coalition started to reject the party
 - a. Southern rights left due to civil rights
 - b. Nixon adopted southern strategy - law and order
 - c. Cultural issues like abortion and minority rights started to become significant in policy
 - d. 1970s - stagflation - started to become disillusioned with big government
9. The Reagan revolution
 - a. Was it a realignment? This is up for debate
 - b. Landslide victory in 1980
 - c. Senate went republican
 - d. Assignments of southern white, libertarians, religious rights, business community and reagan democrats
 - e. Less government involvement, hawkish foreign policy against Soviet Union
10. No longer wings in the two parties
 - a. They used to have liberal and conservative wings - often chose party based on historical affiliation - would fight over which wing would be president
 - b. Large urban, suburban and rural divide
11. Next realignment
 - a. No consensus of if there was a realignment in the 1980s, or is it just a pendulum going back and forth

12. Why does the system limit growth of welfare state
 - a. System tilts to the right
 - b. Amplifies rural voices, which tends to be more conservative
 - c. Less party identification requires fundraising for each candidates, role of money
 - d. Significant voice of economic interests on electoral outcomes
 - i. In favour of the status quo, not in favour of public spending
13. How do they decide who to vote for
 - a. Demography matters
 - b. General state of the economy
 - c. Party affiliation and partisanship
 - d. Ideology
 - e. Religious affiliation
 - f. Name recognition of candidate
 - g. Wedge issues - culture war
 - h. Foreign policy
14. Issues with voting
 - a. Some states ban former felons 5-6 million americans
 - b. First past the post makes it difficult for third parties
 - c. Supreme court recently stick down civil rights laws - voter ID parties
 - d. Different methods of voting in states
 - e. Even small offices politicized
15. Normal people are not attracted to being president
16. Get out the vote
 - a. Increasingly sophisticated sstesmt to target likely voters
 - b. Often used social media
 - c. Media and publicity stumps
 - d. Negative campaigning - push polling and attack ads
17. Why do elites have so much interests
 - a. Overtnued finance laws - can raise as much money as you want
 - b. Need a lot of money to run for office
 - c. Well-financed lobbyists have constitutional protection
 - d. Politicians have a vested interest in winning over elites
18. Primaries also matter
 - a. Politicians have to win locally to win nomination
 - b. Nationally recognized polticisions have lost primaries to challengers
 - c. Allows for ideological pursts and candidates able to generate money to drag party to left or right
19. Does money matter
 - a. Hard to find a correlation between money spent and primaries won
 - b. Money sets a bar for candidates but saturation point where more money doesnt matter
20. The media and election
 - a. Often offer partian viets, focus on polls and horserace rather than substantive usses

- b. Now rightwing and leftwing networks
 - c. Investigative journalism is expensive
- 21. What features prevent a reckless president
 - a. Congress and the system of government
 - b. Interest groups
 - c. Institutional factors, institutions and the global economic system
 - d. Military limitation
 - e. States and local governments
- 22. Is American democracy under threat
 - a. It has surpassed other assaults
 - b. It has always have problems, not new
 - c. Elections still free and fair in comparison to other countries

Simulation

1. They come up with platforms, we think about it, ask questions, then vote

Simon

1. Students first policy
2. Young are the future
3. Education, home ownership, jobs
4. Lockdowns - flexibility, only one tool, different pandemics differently, secure hospitals and LTC homes, lockdowns better to have in urban areas
5. Inflation - only so much the provincial government can do, have some of the most important industrial sectors, stimulus packages, fund industries to provide jobs, want stability within industries. Reduce funding to sectors not as important
6. Education - pay 5% of bill for students (parking, books, some housing), work with universities, university towns have a higher rent cost so put in a cap on how much landlords can charge as a percentage
7. Decriminalizing drugs - slow approach, private companies given government permit to sell drugs, retroactively take back convictions
8. Environment - federal issue, sticking with the federal government's plan
9. Said good things about appoint

Cambell

1. Minimum wage, education, labour rights, environment
2. Minimum wage - steady increase of wage, 1.50 per year for the first 3 years, doubles in yr 4 and continues
3. Lockdowns pandemics - lockdowns good at first, do need to now start to live with the pandemic, lifting restrictions steadily, support to move out of the lockdown stage
4. Inflation - high demand for product, low supply, introduce food supports to low and lower middle income families, caps on gas and heating oil,
5. Education - not free post-secondary education, stop funding private universities and colleges, put this back into public, work with universities in reducing prices (parking, housing, additional costs), payment plans in universities, cancelling interests in loans, increase OSAP funding, stop scholarships skew to private schools

6. Response regarding education and textbooks - online resources can be just as good, build a better online library program, increase in tuition for this, but they are going to keep doing the same things
7. Decriminalizing drugs - precise and step-by-step process, start by decriminalizing in certain areas, look to further decriminalize, look at causes of addiction, increase funding in other areas, addiction treatment, safe injection sites
8. Environment - cap and trade system, support the carbon tax, invest in sectors to increase green energy, want to move jobs to more sustainable industries
9. Said good things about opponent

Week 9

1. Final exam posted on blackboard next week
2. Why is America so unequal
3. There is some degree of values regarding the state of the economy
 - a. Are markets rational
 - b. Perfectionism - are people made better by governments or does government get in the way
 - c. Is economic liberty related to political liberty
 - d. Should the younger generation pay for this generation's debt, does debt matter
 - e. Do you want lower taxes and less social programs or higher taxes and programming
4. American welfare state
 - a. Its welfare state started later than most developed countries
 - b. Originated with the Great Depression and New Deal coalition
 - c. Most substantial reforms were blocked by courts and Congress
 - d. Social safety net was minimal and targeted towards white workers and pro-capitalist
5. Fordism
 - a. Post-war economic growth in manufacturing
 - b. Post-war consensus between capital and labour - labour had to get a part of the economic pie
 - c. Company would provide for workers
 - d. Workers saw a rise in real wages
6. The Great Society
 - a. Last attempt for them to fix their economic inequality
 - b. Election of LBJ launched a war on poverty
 - c. Medicare and Medicaid
 - d. Increased social spending
 - e. Led to backlash and inflation (inflation also due to other factors)
7. Why is it so bad
 - a. One party dominance in 1930s and 1960s still had conservative veto points in the Supreme Court and Congress
 - b. Work-related benefits largely helped whites

- c. Divided government degature
 - d. US system amplifies the interests of the wealthy and well-organized
 - e. Ideological commitment to free markets
 - f. Most benefits were provided by employer - worked in a system divided along racial lines as white people would have white employers who provide benefits, and then the state would be left to provide for non-white people and nobody would care if this system was good
- 8. US does not have universal healthcare, and spends more money on it per capita compared to any over OECD countries
 - a. Health benefits are work related after 1930s new deal
 - b. A lot of this cost comes from overlap of insurance companies
 - c. Doctors lobby groups will financed
 - d. Lack of a labour party to put pressure on system
 - e. By 1960s insurance lobbyists too powerful to oppose
 - f. Affordable care act very insurance company friendly and not in favour of single payer system
 - g. Higher rates of being uninsured in racialized communities
 - h. Uncompetitive insurance system does not keep costs down
- 9. Neoliberalism
- 10. 1980s
 - a. Break power of unions
- 11. Yet did much really change under regan
 - a. Many major programs did not change
 - b. Government spending didnt drop dramatically
 - c. Tax cuts produced deficits, and later taxes were raised
 - d. Raising taxes became politically difficult
 - e. Economic globalization
- 12. 1990s
 - a. Brief by deep recession
 - b. Tech boom - rise of the internet and PCs
 - c. Return of left-wing parties to power but maintaining of free market policies
 - d. Clinton was a freemarket democrat
- 13. Setting the stage for recession
 - a. Stage was set for the 2008 recession was set by the 1990s recession
 - b. Dot com bubble and september 11 attacks led to federal reserve lowering rates to 1%
 - c. Made borrowing cheaper
 - d. Subprime lending promoted home ownership both by republicans and democrats
 - e. Federal reserve had a policy of targeted bailouts since 1980s
 - f. Derivatives left unregulated and over the counter
- 14. Trouble begins
 - a. Foreclosures increase and housing prices go down as everyone is bankrupt
 - b. Banks and insurance companies required government bailouts
- 15. Governments response

- a. Let Lehman brothers fail to introduce moral hazard
 - b. Did not factor in that the government would let a bank fail
 - c. Letting the bank fail nearly broke the international banking system
 - d. Banks stopped lending to everybody, including to one another - financial system froze
 - i. People couldn't get car loans, credit cards, advances
 - e. In response to frozen credit markets fail to pass TARP package
 - f. Left wing democrats and right wing republicans refuse to pass TARP
16. Recovery was long and protracted
- a. Didn't start fully recovering until 2016
17. Obama administration
- a. Reverse downward trend in the US economy through another US stimulus package
 - b. Had to bail out the auto sector
 - c. Regulate the financial system
 - d. Prevent crisis from spreading
18. Return of austerity measures in 2010
- a. The return of neoliberalism
 - b. Recession affected low-wage workers not upper middle class or wealthy
 - c. Bank bailouts worked too well, prevented contagion from spreading
 - d. Obama also implemented health care reform and took attention off economic problems in America
 - e. Massive debts started accumulating in OECD led to rise in tea party movements
 - f. Recession hit white working class people who ended up blaming the government and supporting the tea party and Trump
19. US government inaction
- a. Tea party blamed government for depth of recession
 - b. Budget ceiling crisis
 - c. Recovery is occurring despite the government
 - d. Stock market returned to pre-crisis levels
20. Does debt matter
- a. Academic literature says no
 - b. Floating currency as a way to mitigate against massive debts
 - c. Doesn't seem to matter the level of debt
 - d. US world reserve currency
21. Economic inequality
- a. Net gains of wealth have gone to the top percent
 - b. Ideological shift to free markets
 - c. Higher income voters turnout to vote more often
 - d. Rich have great sway over policy
 - e. Many Americans don't rely on social programs
 - f. Policy gridlock in Congress
22. Post recession
- a. Overinflated markets

- b. Wages lagging
 - c. Many in middle and working class still suffering from asset loss from recession
 - d. Led to rise of Trump and Sanders
- 23. Is inequality a problem
 - a. Leads to lower life expectancy
 - b. Less health outcomes from lower income families
 - c. Harming democratic efficiency
 - d. Harming educational opportunities
 - e. Less chance of reform of financial system or new social programs
- 24. Populist response
 - a. Inequality one of the major problems
 - b. Sanders - blames Wall Street
 - c. Trump - blames elites
- 25. Covid recession and government action
 - a. Direct transfers sent to families twice - under Trump and Biden
 - b. Family tax credit, but limited
 - c. US labour shortages driving up wages
 - d. Yet billionaires have profited off recession
 - e. Use of food banks and economic inequality went down due to these transfers
- 26. Conclusion
 - a. Inequality problematic
 - b. Partially driven by policy technology and free market
 - c. Policy and mitigate worse aspects
 - d. US unique in its poor welfare state
 - e. Covid-19 exacerbated wealth inequality and debt but improved labour power

Simulation - formal debate

1. Moderators pose question - take pro or con
2. Moderators decide who has made the better argument
3. Opening arguments, back and forth, closing arguments
4. Free universal education (undergrad/college/trade school, daycares - domestic students only, public universities) - we are for free education
 - a. Reduces economic inequality and quality of life
 - b. Merit based success rather than financial based
 - c. Hate the elite - chance for hard workers to rise and grow
5. Counter arguments to them
 - a. Overcrowding - takes higher grades to get into uni
 - b. Expense of the government
6. Their argument
 - a. Free schools come with downsides
7. Back and forth arguments
 - a. School quality will go down
 - b. Rebut - merit based
 - c. Rebut - merit based

8. Unemployment do we need to address decline of manufacturing and coal gas
 - a. Dont be concerned about these industries
 - b. Not renewable resources, let them fail they will be replaced
 - c. Focus on new form of engineering, not old plans
 - d. Training for new types of industries to create jobs - green indstries
 - e. People having new jobs, leads to lower unemployment
 - i. Support their transition
9. Their argument
 - a. Base of america
 - b. Subsidese these industries
 - c. Does not wait for losers
 - d. Singing death warrant to foreign powers
 - e. Building off american industries
10. Debate
 - a. Loss jobs, crime, base of the past
11. Voter tunout - forced to vote under penalty of fine - against
 - a. Freedom
 - b. Not vote for people you dont belive in
 - c. Babysitting the electorate - shouldn;t tell people what to do
 - d. Effort to fine people - hard to enforce, expensive
 - e. Rebellion
12. Their argument
 - a. Political diverty is dying
 - b. Make it a holiday
 - c. How much is the fine - burden on poor people
 - d. Radical people vote
13. Rebuttal
 - a. Increased representation

Week 10

1. Background on the emergence of covid
2. Governments typically
 - a. Lockdowns
 - b. Closed borders
 - c. Stimulus for citizens
3. Covid cases are heard to measure, harder to measure in the US when significant people don't go to the hospital to avoid getting a bill
4. 4% of world's population 16% of world's covid deaths
5. Why did they do so badly under trump
 - a. Most countries didn't do well in the beginning of 2020, were not prepared for it
 - b. Masking became a political issue in the US due to trump
 - i. Different messaging from CDC, public health, and presidency
 - c. Lockdowns and social distancing also became a partisan issue
 - d. The US never really locked down - 94% of americans were not locked down
 - e. In most countries it was not a partisan issue

- f. After June 2020 people were mostly getting back to normal
- 6. Problems with american response
 - a. Federalism - 50 different responses to the pandemic
 - i. Even different rules between districts
 - b. Porous borders between states made lockdowns difficult
 - c. Partisanship with response held back national response
 - d. Private healthcare made coordinating public health efforts difficult - some hospitals were packed while others were empty
- 7. What did trump get right
 - a. Invested heavily in vaccines - operation warpspeed
 - b. Direct transfers - trump administration signed a 2.2 trillion stimulus bills
 - c. 300 billion in direct transfers including 1200 to individual people
 - d. Additional unemployment benefits, small business loans
 - e. Likely prevented widespread economic downturn
- 8. Biden administration didn't fare much better
 - a. Signed situ and infrastructure bill
 - b. Us had large supply of vaccines, free vaccines
 - c. Yet vaccines quickly hit wall of acceptance - vaccinations fell along partisan lines
 - d. New variants proved easily transmissible
- 9. Why
 - a. America is partians
 - b. Trump is in favor of vaccines but can't seem to lead the base of the party on getting vaccinated
 - c. 50 different responses to the pandemic
 - d. Americans seem to be okay with people dying, and having high rates of death from covid-19
 - e. Historical skepticism of government
- 10. Countries that handled poorly
 - a. Latent response to pandemic
 - b. Poor messaging
 - c. Low levels of public trust, failure to follow rules
- 11. The end of neoliberalism?
 - a. Neoliberal era from 1990 onwards
 - b. Covid increased size of government, people liked this
 - c. There were changes in labour relations, hard to find workers shifting power to workers
 - d. Debt was cheap and interest rates were low
 - e. Supply chains were in question, economic nationalism
- 12. Economic fallout
 - a. Massive labour shortages
 - b. Wages are on the upswing
 - c. People are leaving jobs - great resignation
 - d. Supply chain issues and inflation up 7%
 - e. Energy and gas prices are up

13. Why is public trust low in the US
 - a. Founding principles of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness - not a collective we are all in it together
 - b. History of lack of trust in the government
 - c. America is one of the most individualistic countries
 - d. High partisanship
14. Decline of american democracy
 - a. Key part is people accepting they lost and the rules of the game - refusal of the trump administration to do this
 - b. Refusal to work with incoming administration likely hurt pandemic response
 - c. Trump wasn't rejected by base, still one of the most popular leaders of the republican party
 - d. Republican states limited voting rights
 - e. Politicized formally non-partisan roles in election monitoring
15. Decline of american democracy is probably bad for the world
 - a. America has focused on democracy production, other systems may target minorities more
 - b. Russia or China are probably not better
 - c. Partisanship is reflected in most aspects of american life, makes it challenging for america to deal with threats with unity
 - i. Bodes poorly for upcoming disasters

Exam

1. Just answer three - only one from each section
2. About 4 pages for each answer - 12 page total
3. Can use outside sources - footnotes
 - a. Not a research paper
 - b. Max 2-3 sources extra as outside
 - c. Can use course material, cite this as well
4. Can reference news sources if its contemporary
5. Drawing historical examples is good
6. When in doubt cite the federalist papers