

POLI 300 -- STUDENT POLITICAL ATTITUDES SURVEY -- FALL 2009

Please answer each of the following questions by circling *on these pages* the *one* alternative (1), (2), etc., that *best* indicates your response to the question. For many questions, no alternative will perfectly — or even adequately — represent your opinion. But, in any case, please mark the one alternative that represents your opinion least badly. Please do not skip any question; mark one alternative for each question. When you are done, please *transfer your answers to the machine-readable answer sheet*, which you will hand in. The answer sheet needs to be marked *in pencil*. All answers are anonymous; do not put your name or social security number on the answer sheet. *Please keep this questionnaire, marked with the answers you gave today, safe for your own future reference.* (You will need to use the questionnaire as a *codebook* for some Problems Sets and you should also have a record of how you responded to each question.)

1. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?
 - (1) Democrat [Go to question 2(a)]
 - (2) Independent [Go to Question 2(b)]
 - (3) Republican [Go to Question 2(c)]
 - (4) Other; minor party [Go to Question 3]
 - (5) Don't know [Go to Question 3]

- 2(a). Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or a not very strong Democrat?
 - (1) Strong Democrat [Go to Question 3]
 - (2) Not very strong Democrat [Go to Question 3]

- 2(b). Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?
 - (1) Closer to Democratic Party [Go to Question 3]
 - (2) Closer to Republican Party [Go to Question 3]
 - (3) Neither [Go to Question 3]

- 2(c). Would you call yourself a strong Republican or a not very strong Republican?
 - (1) Strong Republican [Go to Question 3]
 - (2) Not very strong Republican [Go to Question 3]

3. To the best of your knowledge, does (or did) your father generally think of himself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?
 - (1) Democrat
 - (2) Independent
 - (3) Republican
 - (4) Other; minor party
 - (5) Don't know; not applicable

4. To the best of your knowledge, does (or did) your mother generally think of herself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?
 - (1) Democrat
 - (2) Independent
 - (3) Republican
 - (4) Other; minor party
 - (5) Don't know; not applicable

5. Regardless of whether you voted or not, whom did you prefer for President in the 2004 election?
 - (1) George W. Bush
 - (2) John F. Kerry
 - (3) Ralph Nader
 - (4) Other minor party candidate
 - (5) Don't know; no preference

6. Some people don't pay much attention to political campaigns. How about you? How interested were you in the 2008 Presidential campaign and election?
 - (1) Not much interested
 - (2) Somewhat interested
 - (3) Very much interested

7. Which candidate did you prefer for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination?
 - (1) Hillary Clinton
 - (2) John Edwards
 - (3) Barack Obama
 - (4) Bill Richardson
 - (5) Other candidate; don't know; no preference

8. Which candidate did you prefer for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination?
 - (1) Rudy Giuliani
 - (2) Mike Huckabee
 - (3) John McCain
 - (4) Mitt Romney
 - (5) Other candidate; don't know; no preference

9. Did you watch the televised Presidential debates between McCain and Obama last Fall?
 - (1) Yes, most or all of the debates.
 - (2) Yes, at least one debate
 - (3) No, I did not watch any of the debates
 - (4) Don't know; don't remember

10. In surveys about elections, it is often found that a lot of people were not able to vote because they weren't registered, they were sick, or they just didn't have time. How about you — did you vote in the Presidential election in November 2008?
 - (1) I was not eligible to vote at the time of the 2008 election (not 18 years of age, not a citizen, etc.)
 - (2) Yes, I did vote
 - (3) No, I didn't vote (though I was eligible)
 - (4) Don't know; don't remember

11. Regardless of whether you voted or not, whom did you prefer for President in the 2008 election?
 - (1) John McCain
 - (2) Barack Obama
 - (3) Other minor candidate
 - (4) No preference; don't know

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?
 - (1) Strongly approve
 - (2) Approve
 - (3) Disapprove
 - (4) Strongly disapprove
 - (5) No opinion

13. With regard to the issue of abortion, which statement best agrees with your view?
 - (1) By law, abortion should never be permitted.
 - (2) The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.
 - (3) The law should permit abortion for other reasons than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.
 - (4) By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.

14. With regard to the matter of the government's role in health insurance, where would you place yourself on the following scale?
- (1) There should be a government insurance plan that would cover all medical and hospital costs for everyone.
 - (2) Mixture but mostly government.
 - (3) Mixture about even between government and private.
 - (4) Mixture but mostly private.
 - (5) All medical expenses should be paid by individuals and through private insurance plans like Blue Cross or other company paid plans.
15. On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how cool (unfavorable) or warm (favorable) do feel toward the Democratic Party?
- (1) 0-20 degrees
 - (2) 21-40 degrees
 - (3) 41-60 degrees
 - (4) 61-80 degrees
 - (5) 81-100 degrees
16. On a scale of 0 degrees to 100 degrees, how cool (unfavorable) or warm (favorable) do feel toward the Republican Party?
- (1) 0-20 degrees
 - (2) 21-40 degrees
 - (3) 41-60 degrees
 - (4) 61-80 degrees
 - (5) 81-100 degrees
17. How often would you say that you follow what is going on in government and public affairs?
- (1) Most of the time
 - (2) Some of the time
 - (3) Little
 - (4) Very little
18. Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes or waste just some or very little of it?
- (1) Waste a lot
 - (2) Waste some or little

19. How much of the time do you think that you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?
 - (1) Some of the time
 - (2) Most of the time

20. Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?
 - (1) For few big interests
 - (2) Benefit of all

21. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "People like me don't have any say about what the government does"?
 - (1) Agree
 - (2) Neutral
 - (3) Disagree

22. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "I don't think public officials care much what people like me think"?
 - (1) Agree
 - (2) Neutral
 - (3) Disagree

23. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on"?
 - (1) Agree
 - (2) Neutral
 - (3) Disagree

24. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Where would you place yourself in these terms?
 - (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative

25. Where would you place George W. Bush in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative
26. Where would you place Bill Clinton in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative
27. Where would you place Hillary Clinton in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative
28. Where would you place John McCain in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative
29. Where would you place Barack Obama in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative
30. Where would you place Ralph Nader in these terms?
- (1) Liberal
 - (2) Slightly liberal
 - (3) Moderate/middle of road
 - (4) Slightly conservative
 - (5) Conservative

31. Where would you place Arnold Schwarzenegger in these terms?

- (1) Liberal
- (2) Slightly liberal
- (3) Moderate/middle of road
- (4) Slightly conservative
- (5) Conservative

32. Where would you place the Democratic Party in these terms?

- (1) Liberal
- (2) Slightly liberal
- (3) Moderate/middle of road
- (4) Slightly conservative
- (5) Conservative

33. Where would you place the Republican Party in these terms?

- (1) Liberal
- (2) Slightly liberal
- (3) Moderate/middle of road
- (4) Slightly conservative
- (5) Conservative

END OF SURVEY — THANK YOU

Remember to keep this questionnaire, marked with the answers you gave today, safe for future reference.