

GUIDE TO IN-CLASS MIDTERM TEST

The In-Class Midterm Test will be held on Monday, October 29 and it will cover through syllabus Topic #6 (but not #7) and the PowerPoint file on “The U.S. Electoral College.” The test will not ask you to write one or several long and broad essay questions; rather you will write a number of short (mostly 5 minute, probably a couple of 10 minutes) answers, with respect to which you will have some choice. (The Midterm Take-Home Essay Exam will be distributed along with the In-Class Test and will be due the following week.) After the test, we will take the usual brief break and then resume a regular class.

Below is a list of items that are potentially related to the midterm test. Most of the items listed below have been mentioned (with some emphasis) in class, but in many cases references to readings will contribute to strong answers. However, some items have been drawn from the Polsby and Wildavsky (P&W) textbook and may not have been discussed in class. The items below are not of equal generality or importance, and the more general or important ones are more likely to appear on the test. But items below that do not appear as *questions* on the test may nevertheless be referred to in (good) *answers*.

- election “fundamentals”
- party identification
- maintaining/deviating/realigning elections
- incumbent vs. open-seat (Presidential) elections
- incumbency advantage in elections
- “referendum” vs. “choice” election
- pre-election polls (for forecasting Presidential elections)
- Literary Digest* polls (1920s-30s)
- Gallup Poll
- random sampling
- The Keys to the White House* (Allan Lichtman)
- predictive models (for forecasting Presidential elections)
- “time for a change” effect
- American National Election Studies (ANES)
- exit polls
- voter ideology
- economic vs. social liberalism/conservatism
- turnout and party identification
- What’s the Matter with Kansas* (Thomas Frank)
- Rich State, Poor State, Red State, Blue State* (Andrew Gelman)
- evolution of media in campaigns
- paid vs. free media
- televised debates
- media effects on campaigns
- party activists vs. professionals (P&W)

OVER =>

Federal Election Campaign Act (P&W)
focus groups (P&W)
negative campaigning (P&W)
battleground/swing states
critiques of the Electoral College
apportionment of electoral votes
“winner-take-all” rule (in casting electoral votes)
minority Presidents
election inversions
Automatic Plan (for reforming the EC)
Pure District Plan
Modified District Plan
Pure Proportional Plan
Whole Number Proportional Plan
National Bonus Plan
Popular Vote Plan
National Popular Vote Plan (interstate compact)
the constitutional convention and Presidential selection
design of original Electoral College
appointment/selection of Presidential electors
double-vote system (in original Electoral College)
House runoff/contingent procedure
the “hazardous game”
Schattschneider’s Law
pledged (and “faithless) electors
Duverger’s Law
general ticket system
12th Amendment
elections of 1796, 1800, and 1824
EC as a popular vote counting system