**Unit 6 – Linkage Institutions (Parties/Campaigns&Elections/Media/Interest Groups)**

***Media***

1. What are the ways in which the media influences public opinion?
2. What do we mean when we say the media acts as a gatekeeper?
3. What do we mean when we say the media acts as a scorekeeper?
4. What do we mean when we say the media acts as a watchdog?
5. What is agenda setting?
6. What is a consequence a concentration of news media ownership?
7. What are sound bites?
8. Summarize the rules regulating the media: FCC regulations, equal time rule.
9. Describe media coverage during an election.
10. Who is the primary source of information on candidates today? What linkage institution did they replace?
11. What is horse-race journalism? What is yellow journalism?
12. Name all the linkage institutions. Why are they called linkage institutions?
13. Why does the President have an advantage over Congress in getting media attention?
14. How does the media limit interest group influence?
15. What is the evidence about the influence of media on how people think?

***Political Parties***

1. Why do we have a two party system in the United States?
2. In what ways are American political parties weaker than they used to be?
3. Briefly summarize the differences between political parties in the United States and in Europe.
4. What is realignment?
5. What is dealignment? What is a cause of dealignment?
6. What are critical elections?
7. What is ticket-splitting?
8. Why are minor parties unsuccessful in electing members of Congress?
9. Where in the Constitution are political parties mentioned?
10. How do delegates to party conventions compare to the average voter?
11. What is a party machine?
12. How has the power of party machines been weakened?
13. What is a winner-take-all system?
14. What are the two types of realigning elections?
15. What group of people has lost power in choosing presidential nominees over the last few decades?
16. Describe the organizational structure of the two major political parties. Make sure you understand the roles of the national committees, congressional committees, and the national chairmen.
17. How many parties is an electoral system likely to have if they have single member districts?
18. What is the main purpose of political parties?
19. Explain why minor parties form, and briefly summarize the different kinds of parties.
20. How have third parties been most successful in our system?
21. What were the founders attitudes towards political parties?
22. Describe how election rules act as obstacles to minor parties winning elections.
23. What contributions do minor parties make to the U.S. political system?
24. How does the use of superdelegates increase the influence of party leaders in the presidential nomination process?
25. How has polarization strengthened party influence in Congress?
26. Describe the important roles that political parties play in our elections.
27. What is a candidate-centered campaign?

***Interest Groups***

1. What are some reasons for the growth of interest groups?
2. What strategies do interest groups use to achieve their goals?
3. What strategies do interest groups use to win/influence elections?
4. What amendment protects the existence of interest groups?
5. What are PACs used for by interest groups?
6. How can interest groups get legislation passed for their members? What type of legislation does it have to be?
7. What is coalition building?
8. What are the differences between political parties and interest groups?
9. Describe the free rider problem.
10. A lobbyist would be unlikely to have a conversation about policy with what type of federal official?
11. What do interest groups and political parties both do for the average citizen?
12. What is the revolving door?
13. What types of interest groups tend to support Democratic candidates?
14. What types of interest groups tend to support Republican candidates?
15. How do interest groups and political parties work together to achieve their goals?
16. What are some regulations that the government has imposed on interest groups?
17. Describe how it may be said that interest groups limit representative democracy.
18. Briefly explain what each of the following interest group advocates for: Sierra Club, National Organization of Women (NOW), National Rifle Association (NRA), American Association of Retired People (AARP), the American Civil Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)?

***Campaigns & Elections***

1. What are the ways in which the government regulates campaigns?
2. PACs are likely to give their campaign contributions to whom?
3. What do we mean when we talk about a plurality system of elections?
4. Explain *McConnell v. FEC.; Citizens United v. FEC; Buckley v. Valeo*.
5. The BCRA tried to curtail the use of what type of campaign spending?
6. What is a caucus, open primary, closed primary, blanket primary?
7. Who are the people who turn out to vote in primaries compared to those who vote in the general election?
8. Voters in Presidential elections have become more focused on which of the following: issues, parties, individual candidates? Explain.
9. What is front-loading?
10. What is the most important factor in determining who wins a congressional election?
11. Who are political consultants?
12. Describe electoral behavior of voters when you factor in participation in all types of elections.
13. What do federal election laws mandate if there is a significant group of people that live in an area that don’t speak English?
14. What is soft money? What is hard money?
15. Distinguish between a PAC, Super PAC, and 527 organization. Be sure to list any restrictions for each.
16. PACs representing what groups have increased most substantially since the 1970s?
17. What offices are directly elected by the people?
18. Which of following has had more of an impact in recent years on the nomination process: primaries, caucuses, state conventions?
19. What happens in our system if a candidate receives less than a majority of the vote, but still more votes than anyone else?
20. What are independent expenditures?
21. Explain the Electoral College.
22. How does the winner-take-all feature of the electoral college hinder minor parties?
23. How does a candidate’s strategy to win a primary election likely differ from that of winning a general election?