1. **What is the Electoral College about and why do some people object of it?**

The Electoral College is a body of people representing the states of the US, formally casting votes during presidential election in November. They are equal to the number of House and Senate members of each state. The electoral rule is a proportional representation, awarding legislator seats to the party to reflect the proportion of popular votes each party receives. Some do not like the system because if goes against the 1 man, 1 vote concept and the “winner takes all” approach causes the first person past the threshold to win, not necessarily the majority of the votes.

1. **What kind of democracy do we have in the US? What are the pros and cons of this kind of democracy?-6**

Today in the US, we have a liberal democracy, meaning that we are in a representative democracy characterized by popular sovereignty, liberty, and political equality. Some of the pros of this kind of democracy are people ultimately source governments authority and policies government leaders make, each person carries equal weight in politics, and citizens of democracy are protected from government interference in the exercise of a range of freedoms. However, there is often a clash with between the liberty and equality of people. Some of other cons to liberal democracy are majority tyranny threatens liberty (suppression of the rights of minority by majority), people are irrational and incompetent, majoritarian democracy threatens minority. I was looking for representative democracy.

1. **When trying to ratify the constitution, what was the compromise devised to bridge the gap between the Federalist and Anti-Federalist?**

The Connecticut compromise, Great Compromise, was the created deal between the New Jersey and Virginia Plan in regards to the legislator structure and state representation. The New Jersey plan (William Paterson), proposed by smaller states, suggested the creation of a government with slightly more power in central government than the Articles of Confederation. In this, states would be equally represented in unicameral national legislator. The Virginia plan (James Madison), proposed by larger states, suggested the creation of a strong central government with power in government apportioned to state based on size of population. The Virginia plan would have one executive, whereas the New Jersey plan would have multiple. The Connecticut compromise had the [bicameral legislature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bicameral_legislature) and the proportional representative in House but equal state representation in Senate.

1. **What do you mean by “ideology,” and why are ideological views sometimes a problem in politics? Compare and contrast two ideologies we’ve talked about in class: liberalism and conservatism.**

Ideology is a coherent set of ideas and beliefs that shape a person’s thinking and actions towards the world. A person’s ideology can help them make sense of the world and their role within society. Ideologies can be broken down into three parts: agent, obstacles, and goals. Ideologies can be a problem in politics because people see them as extremes. Liberalism can have a negative connotation because it is now seen as far side right (ex: socialist). Conservative, on the other hand, can be depicted as super religious. Ideologies have become more extreme, causing a current push for moderate.

Liberalism’s agent is the individual, their obstacle is rules and constraints, and their goal is maximum individual freedom. In the example of pro-choice, the individual is the agent who should be making the decision, the obstacle are the unjust laws and strict regulations, and the goal is to maximize the woman’s choice whether to keep the child. Conservative’s agent is the interconnected individual, the obstacle is radical ideas, and their goal is order and stability. In the case of the black lives matter, conservatives would prefer the movement take the path of preexisting channels, instead of protest because protest do not align with their end goal of order and stability.

1. **In thinking about parties, what issues do you think are prominent enough in the US to form a third party? Name a viable third party, and tell me if you think it will survive as a third party, or is a realignment needed to make room for the party? Define “realignment” in your answer.**

In the current state of the US, there is the strong enough issue around civil rights for there to be a creation of a third party. I think the issue regarding civil rights in American, particularly Black Lives Matter movement, could have enough momentum to create a protest party. One viable third party is the Green party. I do not think this party will survive because although it has started to encompass more issues over time, it began as a single-issue party focused around environmental issues. The issue that single-issue parties focus on tends to be adopted by one of the major two parties. I think a realignment, the process where one party supplants another dominant party in a two-party political system, will only be necessary if Trump has a detrimental impact on the image and values of the Republican party.

1. **Why is “states-rights” such a hot-button issue? Name one policy that pits federal law against state law?**

State’s rights are a hot button issue because states have more power than federal government, social welfare programs and drugs. States rights were the basis of the southern states’ implementation of Jim Crow segregation, causing a negative connotation. Social welfare programs vary from state to state, causing people to move to states with better benefits altering the distribution of wealth.

Currently states rights are a hot topic because there are state laws that are pinned up against federal laws. One of these policies is the policy on marijuana. Marijuana is legal in 22 states, but still is not legal on a federal level. Colorado has made $996 million on marijuana, causing other unrest in other states not making this money. The federal government is being very cautious about their decision on the drug, not stepping on the toes of the states.

1. **What explains Trump supporter’s responses to his campaign rhetoric?**

Trump supporters’ response to his campaign rhetoric can be partly attributed to the face that he is able to say what he thinks in a time when people feel constrained. He is able to play of the fear of those who are listening to him speak. Trump also talks in very simple words, allowing those of all educational backgrounds to get a better understanding of what he is talking about. His slogan, as an example, “Make America great again,” is very short, easy to understand, and has the ability to be well circulated. Rhetoric can be evaluated on four different levels: effect of standards, ethical standards, truth standards, and aesthetic standards. Although Trump is very low in the ethical and truth standards, he is very strong in the effect and aesthetic standards. He knows how to play with the media, having had his own TV show prior, and knows how to highly entertaining.

**PART B: Essays**

1. **What are means-tested programs in social welfare policy? How do they differ from other kinds of welfare programs? Name programs common in each category—means-tested and social insurance programs. Which kind of program comes under the most scrutiny by citizens, why?**

Means-tested welfare programs are those in which you must meet a certain criteria of demonstrated need in order to qualify. Social Insurance programs, however, are government programs that provide services and income support in proportion to the amount mandatory contributions made by individuals to the government trust fund (running out of money because of intergenerational redistribution).

A few means-tested programs are Food stamps. Food stamps are a supplementary nutritional assistance program started in 2008 to help prevent malnutrition among poor. Another means-tested program is Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), providing income and services to poor families. TANF replaced Aid for Depended Children. Medicaid and health insurance for poor children, helping to cover health expenses, are also means-tested programs. Social security is a social insurance program. Social Security provides income support for elderly, disabled, and family survivors of working Americans. It is seen as one of the three legs of retirement (social security, private pensions, individual savings). Medicare is also a social insurance program, a federal health insurance program for elderly and disabled. Means-tested programs receive more scrutiny because the common belief is that welfare encourages dependency and rewards poor life choices. People believe that citizens on social insurance programs are more deserving than those on means-tested programs because those on means-tested programs can prevent it.

1. **In what two periods of the US political history did the executive branch enact expanded benefits for citizens? What prompted concern about the economic welfare of citizens in each period? How does the US compare with other industrialized nations in terms of government aid for citizens? Be specific.**

The executive branch expanded the benefits for citizens during the time of the New Deal, an act focused around general welfare. The act was created in response to the Great Depression, which caused many people to lost almost all their money in one of the worst economic recessions. In this act, Roosevelt add social security and regulations on the banking and securities industry in the hopes of preventing such damaging results during the next recession. One of the regulations that was added was the FDIC secures up to $250,000 to stop the run on banks. Social Security was created to protect the minimum standard of living for the elderly, disabled, victims of economic instability, and family disintegration. People understood the market had winners and losers, but if an effort was being up forward, they did not want to see their fellow citizens suffering. The executive branch also expanded the benefits for citizens after the Great Recession in 2008. As this economic recession caused a lot of people to lose their jobs and fall below the poverty line, Obama implemented more economic and social welfare programs. A few programs that were introduced are food stamps (SNAP) and Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act, 2010, provides coverage to 46 million uninsured Americans. It allows states to expand Medicaid eligibility, required all Americans to have health insurance, forbids rejection based on preexisting condition, and fills Medicare hole in prescription drugs. One of the cons to this program is that is does not institute a singer-player system nor does it have a public option.

In general, we have a much lower social welfare than most countries. Other countries have higher taxes, but the government provides health care and free university tuition. The US is different in their safety nets in that they are less costly, fewer people in the system, favor the elderly while others are more evenly distributed, less redistributive, less private employers, and lacks universal health insurance coverage. –The second period was the Great Society Programs under LBJ in the 1960s.-5