

(Instructor:
Kathleen Bratton)

February 24, 2010 / Poli Sci 4035 MIDTERM

Name: _____

Last four digits, SSN: _____

1. Define and explain the significance (for legislative politics) of the following:

(60 points)

necessary and proper clause

Interstate Commerce clause

Articles of Confederation (contrast to eventual constitutional system)

Joe Cannon (describe the context in which Cannon operated, and be sure to explain how system changed after Cannon)

Political question (nonjusticiable question)—be sure to give an example of such a question, in the context of our class material

1965 Voting Rights Act

Compact and contiguous (brief definitions and explaining the context is sufficient)

Buckley v. Valeo (1976) (independent expenditures)

"primary" constituency (as a type of constituency)

Arizona clean elections

2. Define (and distinguish between) reapportionment and redistricting. Explain how at the national level the executive branch, the legislative branch, and the judicial branch each play a role in redistricting.

Provide one example of a contemporary argument about how the census might under-represent particular groups. In your example, which political party do you think is disadvantaged by any under-count?

(15 points)

3. Describe three elements of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. To what degree is each of these elements Constitutional?

What is the significance of the *Citizens United v. FEC* decision (2009)?

(15 points)

4. Explain three possible (and distinct) consequences of term limits. What is the constitutional status of term limits at the national level?

(10 points)