**POLI 101: Introduction to Politics**

**Midterm Study Questions**

**Summer Semester 2014 – 2015**

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**Thanks to everyone who helped.**

**All students must pay attention to the following three points:**

* **Your answers to the questions MUST be based on class lecture notes and the slides (consult the textbook for more information).**
* **Write the answers in your own language; don’t memorize sentences or paragraphs directly from the textbook or slides. Your style of expressions and writing skills are very important.**
* **Copying information from the internet-based sources will bring down your marks.**

**Any five of the following six questions will be put in the midterm:**

1. **What is politics? How is politics a science? Explain clearly.**

* **A- Politics is the art of governance, it is a process that allows citizens to have rights and freedoms, compete elections, form government and to run the country for a certain period of time.**
* **B- Politics is a social science, why? Science means established or accumulated knowledge supported by experiments and observations. And Political science uses scientific methods like Public opinion, Survey and Voting behavior. Political Science can be empirical like natural sciences.**

1. **Define political power. Differentiate between the three concepts of legitimacy, authority, and sovereignty.**

* **A- Political power is the central concept in politics, just like money in economics. Power means the capacity of an individual to get other people to do what that individual wants.**
* **B- Legitimacy is the legal right and psychological right to govern, the government is rightful. / Authority is the capacity of an individual leader to command the respect of people. / Sovereignty is the supreme power of a government to make decisions within its territorial boundary.**

1. **What is theory? Explain the rational choice theory of politics.**

* **A- Theory is a framework to analyze developments and make predictions about the developments.**
* **B- Assumes people are rational actors who maximize their interests, consciously and tends to ignore impact of culture and religion.**

1. **Explain David Easton’s systems theory. What are the limitations of this theory?**

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1. **Countries act as a feedback loop.**
2. **Citizens’ demands (input) generate government response (output) then impacts the citizens in various ways, creating new demands (feedback)**

* **Modified Systems Theory**

1. **Modification Accepts feedback process.**
2. **Government more active.**

* **Limitations: it is more or less a simplified explanation of how a political system works. It can only explain an established political system but stops when the system breaks down.**

1. **What is ideology? Compare and contrast between classic and modern liberalisms.**
2. **An ideology is a set of ideas, beliefs and visions held by and individual or groups of individuals.**

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| **Classic Liberalism** | **Modern Liberalism** |
| * **Unlimited individual rights and freedoms.** | * **Rights and freedoms should be restricted to favor the poor in the society.** |
| * **Markets must find solutions to all social and economic problems.** | * **Markets are imperfect and cannot provide solution to all society and economic problems.** |
| * **Government should not intervene in the markets.** | * **Governments should interfere to control markets to make it work better.** |

1. **Discuss the ideology of conservatism. Do you consider yourself a conservative? (Explain why or why not).**
2. **Conservatism means gradual social and political change, and no sudden changes. You can’t change quickly, and usually revolutions end badly.**
3. **You can answer any of these answers:**
4. **No, because gradual change takes a long time.**
5. **Yes, because sudden changes like revolutions usually end badly.**