

**AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
POLITICAL SCIENCE 317
FINAL EXAM**

Bring this sheet, blue books, and any notes, books, et cetera to class on FRIDAY April 26 at 8 AM. You will then have TWO HOURS to write out your answers to SEVEN of the ten questions below. Only those answers written out in your hand during the exam period will count for credit. The seven questions will be selected at random on exam day. Do your own work: the same or similar answers will be thrown out of each exam in which they appear.

Assume that any answers will remain essentially contested—more than one reasonable position exists. Use the claim, objection, rejoinder format to achieve persuasion and be sure to inform readers that a real debate is present. Cite our texts (not the dictionary) to define all key terms, support your claims with reasoning, and keep in mind that concrete, detailed examples (provided with short quotations and citations or paraphrased with page numbers) improve persuasiveness.

1. In Federalist #10 and 51, Madison argues that justice requires checks against majorities in popular governments because of the danger of tyranny by majority faction. Melancton Smith disagrees; he argues that the majority interest is synonymous with the public interest and majoritarian government is accountable government. Who has the better republican argument? Use the political dispute behind Shays's Rebellion to illustrate your discussion.
2. Is Tom Paine's *Agrarian Justice* a low grid/low group (competitive individualist) or low grid/high group (egalitarian) tract? Be sure to use Ellis' contrasting values of self-regulation and worth and integration and participation to structure your answer.
3. Hartz argues that Americans lacked feudalism and so lacked a viable socialist tradition. Consequently an individualist "liberal consensus" supporting "atomistic social freedom" has dominated American political development. Hartz uses this view to explain why no socialist labor party ever took root in America. Yet, as Gaventa shows, the coming of the American Association coal company to the Clear Fork Valley demonstrates how ascriptive assumptions have frequently been used to create and consolidate power. Write an essay using these facts to debate whether American politics has been more shaped by the liberal or the ascriptive political tradition.
4. Was the Constitution of 1787 a pro-slavery document? Why does it matter? Be sure to use the views of Waldstreicher and Douglass in your answer.
5. Apply Gaventa's third dimensional power and the pluralist's first dimensional power to the 1969 and 1972 elections for UMWA president in District 19. Debate which dimension better explains the outcomes.
6. Alexander shows how race neutral laws operate under conditions of implicit bias to discriminate against African Americans in the war on drugs. She argues that drug policies have created a more alluring "racial bribe" than the one under Jim Crow. Glazer supports Justice Harlan's 1896 claim that the "Constitution is color-blind." Use the reasoning on both sides to debate whether color-blind laws are flawed in today's setting.
7. Mary Douglas's fatalist political culture helps us understand how the poor and marginalized participate in American politics. The typical tools of "exit, voice, and loyalty" are not open to them, so they respond differently, making due with available resources like music and religion. Use the lyrics of Skip James' "If you haven't any hay, get on down the road" and Danny's story of Joseph and Potiphar in *Matewan* to illustrate how fatalistic cultures use "weapons of the weak" to fight the powerful and debate whether such tools are effective as forms of political participation.
8. NOW, like all public interested groups, faced a collective action problem. Use the issue of women in the military during the ERA movement to debate whether NOW volunteers' egalitarian need for ideological purity or the availability of ascriptive gender biases emphasized by Phyllis Schlafly played the larger role in defeating the ERA.
9. As Mansbridge argues, the logic of collection action in the face of public goods directs the rational liberal individual to free ride. But the republican form of government requires citizens willing to sacrifice for the public good and willing to put democratic deliberation ahead of individual interests. Is there then an unresolvable structural tension between liberalism and republicanism in American political thought? Use the Mansfieldian moment as an example to debate yes and no answers to this question.
10. King and Smith report that in his speech on Reverend Jeremiah Wright, Barak Obama acknowledged the resentment whites often feel against race conscious policies. "Similar anger ... helped forge the Reagan coalition," Obama noted. McGirr and Mansbridge suggest that a similar feeling motivated the "Suburban Warriors" who opposed the ERA. Yet conservatives bristle at being labeled racist and deny that they are motivated, even subconsciously, by ascriptive concerns like race. Use the STOP ERA group as a test case to debate whether Reagan supporter Phyllis Schlafly was motivated by individualist or hierarchical assumptions.

EXTRA TWO POINTS: How is the ascriptive tradition defined and how is the process of resisting power by embracing ascriptive stigma illustrated in the phenomenon of gangsta rap?