THIRD MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW
Political Science 111
Dr. Kevin Parsneau

The test covers materials that are in the class lectures or readings. A good way to study is to be familiar with your class notes, get them organized and make sure you have read the assigned chapters (Ginsberg et al. We The People chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8) and other readings on the syllabus. The test is online with open notes, but it is timed so you will not have time to look up all the answers and should be prepared before you start. The questions will be drawn from a pool of about 100 questions about the topics and key terms below or the basic points from the supplemental readings. You may not have any other person help you while you take the exam.

A list of important things from your notes and the readings.
How do U.S. participation rates compare to other democracies, and how do different states compare?
What explains some of the different political participation rates between countries or states?
Know the patterns of political participation among different groups in the U.S.
What is the rational cost benefit analysis (hint: R=PB-C+D) and how does it relate to participation?
What is public opinion and what is its role in democracy?
What is ideology and what is its role in democracy?
Know the major world and historical political ideologies of the Right and the Left.
What are the major differences between American Liberals and American Conservatives?
What is political socialization and who or what are the agents of political socialization?
What happened with the Literary Digest and George Gallup’s prediction?
Know how to interpret a poll using its population of inference, sample and margin of error.
Know what makes public opinion polls trustworthy.
Know the pros and cons for public opinion polls in democracies.
What are the media trends and consumption of newspapers, television and the internet?
What biases have political scientists identified in the media?
How does the media affect public opinion (agenda setting, priming, framing)?
What are political parties, the party in organization, party in electorate and party in government?
What is the ideal of responsible party government and how well does it work? Why or why not?
Why do we have political parties?
Why does the U.S. have a two-party system?
What are the types of third parties and what roles can third parties have in our system?
What are the major differences between Republicans and Democrats?
What are the differences between the different types of elections in the U.S.?
Who runs for Congress, what groups are over or underrepresented?
What factors are associated with candidates who win elections?
Understand the unique aspects of presidential elections compared to other elections.
How do voters decide between candidates and how do they hold government accountable?

Terms that you should know and keep in mind.