The midterm consists of 3 sections. Section A has 15 multiple choice/short answer questions worth 2 points each. They will primarily focus on the syllabus readings that we discussed in class, but all the readings are fair game, and ask general questions that you should know if you read the article. Section B has 6 identification questions from which you will choose 3, worth 5 points each. You should expect to write 2-3 sentence answers that define the term and states its importance to the study of state politics. Section C has 4 essay questions from which you will choose 2, worth 15 points each. These questions will be similar to the examples below, and you should prepare to write a 4-5 paragraph answer for each. Remember, because you will have a choice of questions, you do not have to prepare an answer to all of these questions.

1. Describe Elazar’s classification system, the three main types of cultures, the sources of the three types, and provide some examples of findings about how his different state political cultures affect state politics beyond simple cultural differences.

2. What are the major features of federalism as they relate to state-federal relations? What are some major contemporary debates about federalism? Use examples from the readings to illustrate and highlight features of the debate.

3. What are the major trends in the Court’s treatment of states within the federalist system? Be sure to cite and explain major court cases to illustrate the trends.

4. How do state constitutions differ from the U.S. Constitution and how do they differ from each other? In what ways have historical forces and time periods shaped differences in state constitutions? Be sure to use examples from the readings or lectures.

5. What roles do parties usually play in state politics and what features of a state’s political system affect the influence that political parties have in that state? Be sure to use examples from the readings or lectures.

6. What is the general condition of parties in state politics as they relate to their ability to unify and assist candidates and office holders, and in what ways are they adapting and changing? Be sure to use examples from the readings or lectures.

The following list includes important terms and events related to the topics we have covered so far in the course. You should incorporate them into your prepared answers to the relevant questions above, and also be aware that some will appear as short-answer identification questions.