

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES: UNIT III**

After reading Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in your text and attending the lectures you should be able to:

## Chapter 11: Congress

Distinguish among the **lawmaking, representation** and **oversight functions** of Congress.

Identify the advantages and disadvantages of **incumbency**.

Define **constituency**.

Define **pork barrel** projects.

Describe the process of **reapportionment** and **redistricting**.

Describe what is meant by a **gerrymander**.

Describe the **leadership** in the Congress (both the House and the Senate) and their various functions and powers.

Describe the role of the **Speaker of the House**.

Describe the role of the **Vice-President in the Senate**.

Define **president pro-tempore**.

Define **party caucus**.

Define the role of the **party leaders** in Congress.

Describe how the principle of **seniority** works.

List and describe the various types of **committees (standing, select, joint, conference)** in Congress and their roles in the functions of Congress.

Define **committee jurisdiction**.

Describe the process by which a **bill** becomes a **law**.

Define **cloture**.

Define **filibuster**.

Define **rider**.

Define **party discipline**.

## Chapter 12: The Presidency

Identify and describe the basic **constitutional powers** given to the president and the ways in which those powers are exercised by modern presidents.

Describe the different theories of presidential power: the **Whig theory**, the **stewardship theory** and the **prerogative theory**.

Describe the president both in his **foreign policy** leadership role and his **domestic policy** leadership role.

Describe the **electoral college** and the process by which the president is chosen.

Define what is meant by **legitimacy of election**.

Define **unit rule**.

Describe the **staffing** of the presidency and the roles of the different offices of the presidency.

Define the **Executive Office of the President**.

Define **Cabinet**.

Describe and discuss the various factors which affect presidential leadership (circumstances, stages of a president's term, nature of the issue, relations with Congress and the public).

Define **honeymoon period**.

Define **presidential approval rating**.

Describe the process of **impeachment** and how the president can be removed from office, including the Constitutional grounds for dismissal.

## Chapter 13: The Bureaucracy

Describe the **general functions** of bureaucratic organizations.

Describe the characteristics of bureaucratic organizations as identified by Max Weber:

- 1) **hierarchical authority structures**
- 2) **task (job) specialization**
- 3) **extensive (formalized) rules**
- 4) operation on the **merit principle**
- 5) **behave impartially**
- 6) **defined jurisdictions**

Describe how modern bureaucracies differ from the above model.

Differentiate among **cabinet departments**, **independent agencies**, and **regulatory agencies**.

Discuss the role of **government corporations** and **presidential commissions**.

Describe what is meant by “quasi-“ powers (**quasi-legislative**, **quasi-executive**, and **quasi-judicial**), and how bureaucratic agencies mimic other branches of government in the execution of these powers.

Differentiate among **patronage**, **merit**, and **executive leadership** systems for staffing a bureaucracy.

Identify how bureaucratic agencies are held **accountable** for their activities.

Discuss the inherent conflict between bureaucratic power and democratic values.

Define **merit (civil service) system**.

Describe the impact of the **Taft-Hartley Act of 1947**.

Define **policy implementation**.

Define **spoils system**.

Define **neutral competence**.

Describe what is meant by an **agency point of view**.

Describe the reasons that bureaucrats seek survival and then growth of their organizations.

Describe **goal displacement**.

Describe the **role of expertise** within bureaucratic agencies.

Describe **clientele group(s)**.

Describe the concept of “**sunset laws**” and how they affect accountability of bureaucratic agencies.

Describe what is meant by the concept of a **whistle-blower**.

Describe what is meant by “**Reinventing Government**”.

## Chapter 14: The Judiciary

Define **jurisdiction**.

Describe and differentiate between **original jurisdiction** and **appellate jurisdiction**.

Describe the process of how the Supreme Court reaches **decisions** and issues **rulings (opinions)**.

Define **writ of certiorari**.

Define **per curiam** decisions.

Describe the jurisdiction and operations of the Supreme Court and the different opinions which the Court can issue.

Define **majority opinion**.

Define **plurality opinion**.

Define **concurring opinion**.

Define **dissenting opinion**.

Describe the structure and jurisdiction of the federal courts.

Discuss the selection of federal judges, including the politics evident in that process.

Define **senatorial courtesy**.

Distinguish between the **facts of a case** and the **laws of a case**, and how each affects judicial decision making.

Define **judicial review**.

Distinguish between **statutory law** and **constitutional law**.

Describe the principle of **precedent** and its importance in the legal process.

Identify the various political influences that influence the Supreme Court’s decision making.

Describe a **amicus curiae brief**.

Distinguish between **strict constructionism** and **loose constructionism**.

Describe what the issues of **legitimacy** and **compliance** entail and how they affect the Supreme Court's policymaking ability.

Distinguish between the doctrines of **judicial activism** and **judicial restraint**.

#### Chapter 15: Economic and Environmental Policy

Define **economy**.

Describe the **laissez-faire doctrine**, and differentiate between it and a **collective economy**.

Distinguish between **fiscal policy** and **monetary policy**.

Define **deficit spending**.

Describe the difference between **economic depression** and **economic recession**.

Describe what is meant by **demand-side economics**.

Define **budget deficit, national debt, balanced budget, and budget surplus**.

Describe what is meant by **supply-side economics**.

Define **inflation**.

Describe the role of both the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)** and the **Congressional Budget Office (CBO)** in the federal budget process.

Describe **monetary policy**.

Describe the role of the **Federal Reserve System (the "Fed")**.