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”)**.