AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (Fall 2008) -- Exam #1 Study Guide

Your exam will be on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2. The exam will be drawn from all lectures and assigned reading to date (Logic, Chapter 1-3, 6-7 [including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and Federalist 10 and 51] and The Logic of Politics under Divided Government. The exam will consists of various objective questions (i.e., multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, true-false, etc.) as well as an essay. The following list offers significant guidance in studying for this exam. Keep in mind that this is a guide, not as an exhaustive list, although I have tried to be thorough. For each you should understand both what the term/concept is and why it is significant.

Collective Action  Prisoners’ Dilemma  Tragedy of the Commons
Transaction Costs  Public Goods  Externalities
Free-Rider Problem  Principal-Agents  Direct Democracy
Representative Democracy (Republic)  Unitary, Confederal, Federal  Constitution (General Definition)
Seven Years (French & Indian) War  Articles of Confederation  Shays’s Rebellion
Virginia and New Jersey Plans  Key Compromises of Constitutional Convention  Key Principles of US Constitution
Article I, Section 8  Necessary and Proper (Elastic) Clause  Commerce Clause
Federalists and Anti-Federalists  Constitutional Amendment Process  Informal Means of Amendment
Bill of Rights  27th Amendment  Marbury v. Madison
Logrolling  Exclusive, Reserved, and Concurrent Powers  Full Faith and Credit Clause
Dual Federalism  Cooperative Federalism  McCulloch v. Maryland
Dred Scott v. Sandford  Pl Crey v. Ferguson  Federal (Unfunded) Mandates
Categorical and Block Grants  Functions of Congress  Tenth Amendment
Constitutional Differences (House & Senate)  Operational Differences (House & Senate)  Key Leaders in the House and Senate
Open, Closed, Restrictive Rule (House)  Filibuster and Cloture  Advice and Consent
Standing Committee  Conference Committee  Joint Committee
Select or Special Committee  Process of Bill Becoming a Law  Riders
Mark Up  Influences on Members Voting Behavior  Delegate v. Trustee
Unanimous Consent  Congressional Support Organizations  Gerrymandering
Discharge Petition  Veto and Override  Pocket Veto
Ticket-Splitting  Authorization and Appropriations  Constitutional Powers of President
Executive Office of the President (Non-Constitutional) Sources of Presidential Power  Cabinet
Executive Privilege  “Going Public”  Roles of the President
Signing Statements  “Coattails”  “Take Care” Clause

ESSAY: You will be required to answer ONE essay question on the exam. You will have limited choice among questions. The questions will be both objective and analytical in focus (i.e., to explain a particular topic and to offer a reasoned opinion on that topic). An example of a likely essay question would be:

SAMPLE QUESTION: The Framers of the Constitution sought to balance order with liberty. How did they shape the new institutions of government to achieve this end? Did they successfully achieve their goals, or were there shortcomings in their constitutional structure?