FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: On the Final Exam you will be asked to answer one of the following essay questions. You should be prepared to write, at minimum, a 500 word answer to each question.

1. What is an ideology? Explain and discuss the significance of the Ideology of Individualism in American politics. Discuss some of the historical sources of this ideology? Where does this ideology place the "Locus of Action" and how does this affect how people think about social and political problems and their solution? Where does it place the responsibility for the development of informed opinion and action? Explain how this leads to the development of "apathetic ignorance" among the public and what function this has for U.S. politics. Explain who participates and benefits from an arrangement where there are no collective institutions to shape the formation of public opinion, to guide its expression, and to hold policymakers accountable for their actions? How does the Ideology of Individualism justify such a set of arrangements?

2. Supposedly, an important role of the mass media is to uncover, assemble, and disseminate the information people need to make effective social and political decisions in their role as citizens in a democratic society. Write an essay in which you discuss the organization and operation of the mass media and what it actually does in regard to the production of this type of information. Evaluate how well the mass media meets its obligations to create an informed citizenry in the U.S. and to help it arrive at "sound" political judgments. Discuss some of the characteristics of American public opinion, including knowledge, conceptualization, behavior and feelings. Discuss some of the techniques used by the media to attract audience attention and relate these to the characteristics of American public opinion. Illustrate where the media places the "locus of action" in its presentation of news and what affect this has upon the political thinking and behavior of Americans? Give examples.

DIRECTIONS: On the final exam eight of the following terms will be selected and you will be asked to identify and indicate the significance of six of the eight selected terms

- The Invisible Hand
- Centrist Politics
- Classical Liberalism
- Laissez Faire Capitalism
- John Locke
- Pluralism
- Political Socialization
- Pseudo-events
- The Melodramatic Imperative
- Personalization
- The New Deal

- Fragmentation
- Normalization
- "Objectivity" or the "Dragnet" style of reporting
- "Who Benefits?"
- Apathetic Ignorance
- American public opinion and the "Bottom Line"
- Engine Charlie
- Iron Triangles
- State’s Rights
- Locus of Action
- The “Old Order”