PLS 203: Religion and Politics in the U.S. 1st Exam Review Questions Wald/Calhoun-Brown, Chapters 1-4

DIRECTIONS

- Two of these four review questions will appear on your exam. Your essay may address either one.
- To receive full credit, your exam essay should be written in well-organized paragraphs composed of complete sentences expressed in standard English.
 - BEGIN YOUR ESSAY WITH AN INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH (SIMPLY REWRITE THE ESSAY QUESTION IN YOUR OWN WORDS). THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD LIST ALL THE MAJOR POINTS THAT YOUR ESSAY WILL ADDRESS.
 - CONTINUE WITH A BODY OF PARAGRAPHS (ANSWERING EACH OF THE MAJOR POINTS RAISED IN THE ESSAY QUESTION).
 - END WITH A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH (SUMMARIZING THE MAJOR POINTS COVERED).
- You may *not* use any notes or dictionaries to assist you in your essay writing. However, I *will* be happy to answer any questions you may have about spelling, punctuation, grammar, and syntax.
- You will *not* need to bring a "blue book" -- a test booklet will be provided. I prefer that you write your essay in *pencil* so that you can more neatly make changes.

STUDY HINTS

- INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MEMORIZE A COMPLETE ESSAY FOR ANY OF THE FOUR TOPICS, MEMORIZE AN OUTLINE. Locate the section of the chapter outline that addresses each of the four topics and construct an outline for each. Review your textbook readings and class notes to expand the detail in each essay's outline.
- The minimum number of essay outlines you should prepare is three. If you prepare for less than three, you run the risk of not having prepared for at least one of the two essay topics that will appear on the exam.
- Make sure that each outline addresses each point raised in its respective essay question. Each of the four essay questions raises three to six major points.
- The first thing to do during the exam is to choose one of the two essay topics. The second thing to do is to write down as complete an outline as possible -- making sure that it addresses every major point raised. IT IS A BIG MISTAKE TO BEGIN TO WRITE YOUR ESSAY WITHOUT FIRST WRITING A GOOD OUTLINE.

GRADING

- The essay portion of the exam is worth a total of 50 points. A maximum of 40 points will be awarded for *content*. It is more important to address every point raised in the essay topic you select than it is to cover fewer points in greater detail.
- A maximum of 10 points will be awarded for *presentation*. MAKE SURE TO BUDGET ADEQUATE TIME TO THOROUGHLY PROOF READ YOUR ESSAY BEFORE TURNING IT IN. Significant points will be subtracted for obvious errors such as subject-verb disagreement, confusion of plurals and possessives, and misspelling of commonly used words.

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. (Wald/Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 1)

- Wald/Calhoun-Brown discuss the following four processes of religious adaptation in modernizing societies; define each of the four and describe their consequences.
 - Differentiation
 - Privatization
 - Desacralization
 - Liberalization
- Wald/Calhoun-Brown also discuss the following three theories of **inevitable religious decline in modernizing societies**; define and describe each.
 - Modernization
 - Marxist/socialism
 - Behavioralism
- Which set of theories do Wald/Calhoun-Brown support? Which set do they criticize? Why?
- Describe the alternate explanation for the persistence of religion's influence in U.S. culture and politics that has been suggested by Norris and Inglehart.
- 2. (Wald/Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 2) Wald/Calhoun-Brown identify seven religious families in the U.S.
 - For each of the seven religious families, give its name, describe the religious beliefs that distinguish it, and tell what approximate proportion of the U.S. population it includes.
 - Describe how Wald/Calhoun-Brown summarize the partisan, ideological, and presidential voting characteristics of six of the seven religious families by arraying them along a continuum from most liberal and Democratic to most conservative and Republican.
- 3. (Wald/Calhoun-Brown, *Chapter 3*) Discuss the impact of Puritan theology on the U.S. Constitution by addressing each of the following points:
 - Wald/Calhoun-Brown argue that the Founding Fathers adopted essentially the same *a priori* assumptions about human nature that underlie Puritan theology. Describe those assumptions.
 - Identify the *external* and *internal* controls on government that Madison argued were necessary because of these inherent characteristics of humans.
 - What are the inevitable consequences of these controls on government decision-making?

4. (Wald/Calhoun-Brown, Chapter 4)

- Discuss the no-establishment clause by addressing each of the following points:
 - Describe the three judicial tests of the Lemon case that are utilized by the U.S. Supreme Court to decide no-establishment cases.
 - Describe the additional decision criterion that is sometimes utilized by the U.S. Supreme Court to decide no-establishment cases.
 - What has been the general trend in the Supreme Court's no-establishment decisions? In which settings? Discuss the doctrine that sometimes justifies exceptions to that trend.
- Discuss **the free-exercise clause** by addressing each of the following points:
 - Describe the three judicial tests of the *Sherbert* case (as modified by the *Gonzales v. O Centro Espirita* case) that are utilized by the U.S. Supreme Court to decide free-exercise cases.
 - What has been the general trend in the Supreme Court's free-exercise decisions? Discuss the doctrine that sometimes justifies exceptions to that trend.