PS101P Final  
Spring 2001

You must write three essays: the required essay from section A worth fifty (50) points, and two essays from section B worth twenty-five (25) points each. The section A essay has a word limit of 1500, while the section B essays are limited to 1000 words. On all essays, double space and include a word count—you will be penalized for exceeding the limits. The exam is due Monday, June 11, 3:30 PM, Encina Hall West, Room 317. If you are graduating in June, please indicate that on the first page of your exam.

Section A (50 points): No Choice
While the tax cut technically restricts the amount of money Congress can appropriate under the 2001 Reconciliation budget, Democratic Senate leader Tom Daschle recently said he would revisit appropriations. In response, President Bush said we must stick to the reconciliation numbers.

You are to write a memo to either Daschle or Bush (your choice), explaining to him how to achieve his desired outcome. You are to cover his strategies and tactics in terms of the concepts used in this course.

Section B (25 points each): Choose 2 of 5.
1) Compare the Reagan budget of 1981 to the Clinton budget of 1993. What was similar, and what was different about the budget politics? Discuss the role of the elections immediately before and after each budget.

2) Many pundits have recently argued that Bush is “governing from the right.” Assess the merits of this claim by laying out the powers of Congress to check the president. You may use a policy example to illustrate your claim.
3) Political commentators have argued that the most significant impact of the
defection of Jim Jeffords from the Republican Party will be on judicial
nominations. Why will the impact be so profound for judicial nominations? How
might George W. Bush respond in his choices of nominees? What impact, if any,
is the Jeffords defection likely to have on public policy coming from the courts?

4) President Bush’s energy policy advocates drilling for oil in the Alaska National
Wildlife Refuge. What can he do to “persuade” Congress to go along and what
are the prospects for success?

5) In regard to social security policy, what are the differences between liberals and
conservatives, and how do the ideological differences play out in the policy
proposals?