

## **i Informasjonsside**

**UNIVERSITETET I OSLO**  
**Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk**  
**HJEMMEEKSAMEN**  
**2017 HØST**

ENG4534 - American Politics

Varighet: 27. november kl. 11:00 til 30. november kl. 11:00

Bruk Times New Roman, 12. pkt, halvannen linjeavstand. Besvarelsen skal leveres som én fil og i pdf-format.

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Lykke til!

## **1 Eksamensoppgave**

Write a well-organized essay of 7-10 pages on one of the following questions. Your essay should contain the following aspects:

- (1) a description and explanation of the theoretical text quoted in the question;
- (2) application of the theory to the specified topic along with exploration of different sides of the question; and
- (3) a conclusion that arises from your discussion.

This is not a research paper, but in preparing your answer, you may wish to find an additional source or two that provides information pertinent to your discussion. You should also endeavor to make use of other class texts in your answer.

ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY.

### **EITHER**

1. According Schattschneider, the "... expansion of the [national] political community has been one of the primary ways of producing change in public policy; expansion has been the grand strategy of American politics. Every major change in public policy (the Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Roosevelt revolutions) have been associated with an enlargement of the electorate" ("Semi-Sovereign People" 249). In your essay first explain what obstacles – theoretical legal and practical – to creating a national political community exist in the U.S. political system, including those diagnosed by Schattschneider. Then consider the Clinton campaign of 2016 in light of Schattschneider's point about the historical "grand strategy" of electoral "enlargement" by progressive forces. What was Clinton's strategy and how was her campaign positioned in regard to the aforementioned grand strategy?

### **OR**

2. V.O. Key identifies 1928 as a type of election he terms “critical.” A critical election is not measured by its result, but rather by the emergence of voting patterns that indicate “broad and durable shifts in party strength” (8); such shifts seem to draw on social identity issues and will last for some time, as opposed to fleeting changes in party affection. In a critical election, data and analysis will “reveal a shift when voters of different areas move in opposing directions” (11, emphasis added). After amplifying Key’s analysis, discuss the election of 2016 as a potential critical election. In your analysis, draw on discussions in class texts regarding the importance of identities in contemporary American electoral politics and consider the role of social demography and identity politics in both campaigns. Be sure to specify what groups might have changed or confirmed a change in their political affiliation by examining the voting results in specific parts of the country that might pertain to such changes.

You are required to hand in your essay in PDF-format.



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