Unit 6 – Political Parties & Elections

IV. Political Ideologies

A. What is a Political Ideology?

1. Valence Issues

2. Wedge Issues

3. Saliency

B. Ideology v. Party Identification

1. Ideology:

2. Party Identification:

C. Ideological Spectrum (How do they rank core values differently?)

V. Why Do We Have Political Parties

A. Madison’s Vision of Factions

* Federalist # 10!

B. Democracy Necessitates Cooperation

C. Combine Ideologies into a Broad Platform

D. Recruit & Elect Candidates

E. Centralize Funding, Campaigning, & Strategy

F. Mobilize & Educate Votes

VI. American Parties, Then & Now

1. Federalists/Anti-Federalists
2. Whigs enter the scene
3. Republicans/Democrats
4. Third parties and their roles

VII. The Democrats

A. Classical Conservatives

B. Advocate for more gov’t intervention

C. Top Issues

1. Wages, Unions, Employment discrimination

2. Public healthcare

3. Climate change/environment

4. Public Schools

5. International Cooperation

VIII. The Republicans

A. Classical Liberals

B. Advocate for less gov’t intervention\*\*\*

C. Top Issues

1. Lower taxes, increased business aid

2. Constitutionalism

3. Balancing the budget

4. Charter and private schools

5. “America First” internationalism

IV. Third Parties Today

A. Libertarians

* 1. Maximal gov’t non-intervention
  2. Gov is for Military and Law, that’s it

B. Green Party

* 1. Environmental maximalists
  2. Sustainable social supports

