

Midterm Study Tips

POLI 10D

1. Thoroughly review the study guide posted by Professor Hill.
 - a. Pay attention to the sample multiple choice and short answer questions to get a sense for the types of questions you'll be asked and what good answers look like.
 - b. Know all of the concepts on the terms list and how they connect to each other.
2. Try writing your own questions.
 - a. Go through your notes and try to think about what questions you would ask.
 - b. One approach can be to go through each lecture and ask yourself "If I could only ask two questions about the information in this lecture, what would they be?" Write those questions and your answers to them. You can do the same thing for each reading—"If I could only ask two questions about the information in this reading, what would they be?" Doing this should help you think about the main takeaway points in each lecture and readings.
 - c. Work with a classmate to come up with your own questions and quiz each other. Grade each other's answers, especially the short answer questions you come up with. Talk through how the answers could be improved.
3. Create a personal study guide.
 - a. Define each of the terms on the terms list on the study guide. I recommend making a chart where the first column is for the terms, the second column is for the definition, the third column is why the term is important, and the fourth column is the term's connection to the course and/or other terms. Each row would then be a term from the terms list.

Term	Definition	Importance	Connection to course and other concepts
Agency Loss			
Antifederalists			
Articles of Confederation			

- b. If charts don't work well for you and if you're more visual, try a concept map of the terms instead.
 - c. Since it's *your* study guide, customize it to your liking: use color coding, diagrams, charts, examples, etc. that will help *you* learn the material.
 - d. If you're more of a tactical learner, you could try making flash cards for each concept. The key here is to condense all of the information about the concept onto one notecard. This helps you isolate the most important points. You can then quiz yourself with the flashcards.
4. "Study smart not hard"
 - a. Review the concepts that you know well so that they are fresh in your mind, but concentrate more of your studying time on understanding concepts that you don't understand as well or were new.
 - b. Try to start studying early so you can identify the concepts that you have a harder time understanding. This will leave you enough time to re-teach it to yourself or seek help from the professor, TAs, or your classmates.
5. Day of the Exam:
 - a. Get plenty of rest!
 - b. Take a deep breath, relax, and smile. The exam is a chance for you to show off what you know!
 - c. Read the questions *carefully*.
 - i. On the multiple choice questions, think of the answer in your own words before looking at the choices, then select the answer that best matches your idea. These questions are not written to trick you, so try not to overthink it.
 - ii. On the short answer questions, make sure you answer *all* parts of the question. If the question asks you define a concept and give an example of it, make sure you do both of those things! If a question asks you for two examples, give two examples.
 - iii. Be concise on the short answer questions. Please do not simply write everything you know about the topic of the question. On most questions, you should be able to write a full credit answer in 2-4 well written sentences.
 - iv. Write neatly. We can't give you credit for answers we can't read!