**Linkage Institutions: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Campaign Finance, and Media**

**UNIT 2 TEST Study Guide**

**Key concepts to know:**

* Major Parties: What are they, what is their primary goal?
* What types of minor (or third party) political parties are there? (Splinter, single-issue, economic protest, ideological – know what these mean and some examples)
* What typically happens to third parties? What roles do they play in elections? What role do they play for the electorate? (Why do we have them?)
* Why do we have a “two party” system? (Know at least a few reasons)
* What are some major activities of political parties? (What do they do?)
* What is the primary goal of an interest group? How do they achieve this goal? (know their main activities – know about lobbying and litigation, grass-roots movements)
* What is the difference between Political Parties and Interest Groups?
* What types of interest groups are there? Know the major types (public interest, issue- or cause-based, economic – and know some examples of specific groups in each category, e.g., NRA, AARP, ACLU, NAACP, Sierra Club)
* Know about Partisanship – Bipartisan, coalitions, hyper-partisanship
* Campaign Finance – know the info on the last study guide ☺. Understand the cycle of attempts to regulate campaign finance and court cases that say you can’t regulate it. What are those cases based on?
* Media - What are some positive roles the media plays? What are some criticisms of the media? Know the vocab on the last study guide. Know how the media (esp the growth of the internet) has changed public perceptions.