



**Devotion: The 10 Commandments of The Bible**

[https://scripturememory.com/10commandments?gclid=Cj0KCCQiAorKfBhC0ARIsAHDzslsHVMc4P71S0\\_IkSrFUJar9A4NeYBxHAU-jZm0AMccPJ2GrNE\\_fuyUaAv4aEALw\\_wcB](https://scripturememory.com/10commandments?gclid=Cj0KCCQiAorKfBhC0ARIsAHDzslsHVMc4P71S0_IkSrFUJar9A4NeYBxHAU-jZm0AMccPJ2GrNE_fuyUaAv4aEALw_wcB)

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any carved/graven image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's. (Exodus 20)

**BUSINESS:** AU Scholars Symposium – Thursday 03/30 all day, no classes. Attendance is mandatory. Check your email for details on the day's schedule.

<b>Week 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overview</b></li> </ul>
<b>W 3/29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Political parties.</b> Party formation and legal standing, history of 2 party practice, independent parties</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activities, Assignments and/or Exams</b></li> <li>• <b>HW8</b> Read Ch. 8 (p.205-234) and ONE relevant <i>current event</i> article (within last 3 months)</li> <li>• <b>Write:</b> Choose <i>two</i> concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today?</li> <li>• Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points.</li> <li>• Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words).</li> <li>• ALWAYS include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work.</li> <li>• Respond to another post (50 words)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overview</b></li> </ul>
<b>W 4/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Campaigns and elections.</b> Election candidates, eligibility to run for office, Australian ballot, campaign funding groups, and campaign fund/finance laws, Hatch Act.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activities, Assignments and/or Exams</b></li> <li>• <b>HW9</b> Read Ch. 9 (p.235-264) and ONE relevant <i>current event</i> article (within last 3 months)</li> <li>• <b>Write:</b> Choose <i>two</i> concepts/key terms in the Chapter that are new to you. Explain each and how you see they have an impact on American politics/experience today?</li> <li>• Apply ONE of the CTD by giving some detail/facts related to your two points.</li> <li>• Number your 2 points to make your statements clearly understood (total 300 words).</li> <li>• ALWAYS include in-text citations (see LP Plagiarism) and Reference to your post, work.</li> <li>• Respond to another post (50 words)</li> </ul>

**Applying the Critical Thinking Domains (CTD) – How are issues/experiences impacted by:**

1. Religion (Religious groups, beliefs, rules)
2. Culture (Social rules)
3. Legal (The law)
4. Ethical (harm)

**Lesson Goal: Political parties in the U.S.**

**Political party:** Any group of activists who organize and work together to win elections, operate the government, and determine public policy (Bardes, Shelley, & Schmidt, 2022, p. 207).

### What is a party platform, plank?

Political Parties, Platforms, and Planks. Political parties are important in American politics. Yet the Constitution does not mention political parties. In fact, many of the founders, including George Washington, distrusted permanent political parties, fearing that they would become too powerful. The first two political factions to appear were the Federalists, who supported ratification of the Constitution, and the Anti-Federalists, who opposed ratification. These factions disappeared once the Constitution was ratified. Early in Washington's first administration as president, two new factions formed: the Federalists, who supported Alexander Hamilton and a group that gathered around Thomas Jefferson, called the Democratic Republicans. They were the first real parties.

Throughout most of American history, the United States has had two major parties. Today's Democratic Party can trace its origins to Jefferson's old party. Today's Republican Party can trace its origins to the election of 1854. Along the way, dozens of third parties have come and gone. Some of these parties were formed to promote a particular cause, such as the Prohibition Party or the Equal Rights Party, which demanded the vote for women. Other third parties, such as the Populists and the Greenbackers, arose for short periods around economic issues. Some third parties, such as the Progressives and the Dixiecrats, splintered off from the Republican and Democratic parties. Some parties have developed around a certain leader, such as George Wallace's American Independent Party or Ross Perot's Reform Party. Third parties have never received high percentages of votes in elections, but they still serve important functions in the American political system. They give citizens who vote for them a forum for dissent. They also give those promoting reform a chance to air their ideas. For example, many of the ideas of the Progressives eventually were adopted by the major parties.

American political parties differ from those in many countries, where parties are often organized to promote a particular political or economic ideology such as socialism, communism, fascism, or capitalism. Others may represent a given economic interest such as labor or farmers. Some have been organized to promote a religious group or interest. In contrast, American political parties are generally not ideological. Instead, they are made up of a loose collaboration of interests that want to win the next election. While the parties might differ on the issues, they seek to appeal to the widest possible spectrum of the electorate. Platforms and Planks American political parties are organized on a national, state, and local basis.

Every four years, the parties hold a national convention to nominate a presidential and vice-presidential candidate. They also meet to develop and approve a party platform of issues and positions upon which the candidates will run. A **party platform** is a set of principles, goals, and strategies designed to address pressing political issues. Each party's platform is broken down into "**planks**," or declarations that speak to each specific issue. Party platforms and their planks are important to the electoral process: They give the candidates a clear political position with which they can campaign. They give voters a sense of what the candidates believe in, the issues they think are important, and how—if elected—they will address them.

### Reference

Constitutional Rights Foundation (2002). *Parties, planks, platforms*. Los Angeles, CA: Constitutional Rights Foundation. Retrieved from <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/mock-election/teachers-guide/2008/pdfs/parties-planks-platforms.pdf>

### Party platforms/planks:

- (a) Undocumented immigrant youths, (b) Transgender equality in school sports, (c) Taxation for public works
1. Research **one of the above public policy issues**, identify the key problems to overcome. WHAT IS WRONG
  2. State **THREE of your party's principles** that guide the proposals and actions. WHAT WE BELIEVE
  3. Declare what **specific policy/laws/funding** you will support if you are elected to office. WHAT WE WILL DO

Write out your points and be prepared to discuss the **specific downsides of not following your planks?**

**VIDEO: U.S. Politics, Two Party system explained** – 4:32 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPGtX2x9txg>

### What are the functions of a political party?

1. *Recruit candidates* for public office, this includes developing candidates from the base of volunteers or business or service organization leaders in the community.
2. *Organize and run elections*, this includes organizing publicity and messaging the public, recruiting volunteers to run election polls, work at generating voter registration and participation.
3. *Presenting the party platform*, this includes presenting policy direction, philosophies, and specific programs to the public in hopes of influencing voters. Party members propose to follow-through if elected.
4. *Responsible for running the government*, this includes supporting and voting for legislation, producing public budgets, appointing and supervising public leaders, and collaborating with other governments to secure support for party/public goals.
5. *Confront opposing parties*, this includes challenging the work, progress, and goals of other parties contending for power by using publications, public forums, and public meetings.

### Party Faces – How and where they work

1. **The Party** refers to organization volunteers who support the goals directly with their time and efforts. The Party is present across voting jurisdictions and work in confederacy (loose unofficial ties) that allow for agreement in goals but great autonomy and independence in leadership and specific goals.
2. **Party-in-the-electorate** refers to persons who identify and pursue party goals but are in the general public, not in elected office. For example, business leaders, religious leaders, unions, can openly support a party and pursue the goals/functions of their party.
3. **Party-in-the-government** refers to government officials who operate to fulfill the expressed Party goals. They *openly identify with the party* and work with leaders of the party-in-the-electorate.

### The Four leading parties in U.S. politics. What are their mission statements?

The Republican Party's website: [www.gop.com](http://www.gop.com)

The Democratic Party's website: [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)

Libertarian Party's website: [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org)

Green Party's website: [www.greenparty.org](http://www.greenparty.org)

### GQ: What political parties are running in your neighborhood?

Look up the parties that are in your local (County/Township) elections.

1. Does one or more party dominate the elected positions
2. Are candidates listed in only one party?
3. Can you identify claimed victories or successes by the parties?

**GQ: Do political parties really work**, do they accomplish their goals and impact public policy?

**VIDEO: Ed Helms & RepresentUs CEO Josh Graham Lynn name the root cause of political dysfunction in America** – 14:39 min. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wro98jQn1Nk>

**GQ:** What explanation about two-party primaries/candidates supports the polarization of politics?

**GQ:** What is **ranked choice voting**? Election options are not limited to one representative from each party.

**GQ:** How is social change reflected in court decisions?

**GQ:** How is lack of social change though Congress a reflection of the polarization by two party voting practices?