

**American Political Institutions**  
**Faculty of Social Sciences**  
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Relative to one another, describe the **organization and operation** of *each* national political institution — the Executive Branch (President), Congress (Senate and House of Representatives), and the Supreme Court. One can argue that political parties are also a prominent feature of the American political system even though they are not included in the Constitution. Explain. What is the most important political institution in the U.S. political system? Explain your choice in the context of the other institutions.

Please explain the factors that make the American political system such a complex one. In doing so, do not neglect the role that the state governments play in the national political process.

Analyze the presidential nomination process, explaining how it worked to produce Hillary Clinton over Senator Bernie Sanders for the Democrats and Donald Trump over the other 16 Republican candidates. The other stages of a presidential election are national conventions and a general election. How do minor political parties fit in the presidential selection process? Explain how the public funding of presidential elections impacts the major and minor political party presidential candidates. Why did the system appear rigged to Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump? Explain. **Ground your analysis in the context of the class reading and lectures rather than general speculation.**

*Please do not neglect the video, “Super Chief,” in your examination of the United States Supreme Court and its position in the American political system.*