**MSJC Political Science 101**

**Study Questions – Chapter 9**

NOTE: Sections marked with an asterisk (\*) must be read and questions answered at home. Sections without an asterisk will be covered in class.

9.1\*

1. Explain the difference between an adversarial court system and an inquisitorial system? Which do we have in the United States?
2. Explain the two types of courts.
3. What is meant by a dual court system? What are the similarities between the two courts?
4. How does the dual court system relate to federalism?
5. What are federal trial courts also known as? How many do we have?
6. What is meant by original jurisdiction?
7. How are cases usually settled prior to getting to trial?
8. What are appellate courts?
9. What is an intermediate appellate court?
10. What is the court of last resort?
11. How are appellate courts different from trial courts?
12. Compare and contrast majority, concurring and dissenting opinions.
13. How is the US Supreme Court different from other appellate courts?
14. Explain the stages in the Supreme Court decision making process.
15. Are SC decisions always final? Explain?

9.2 \*

1. Why did Alexander Hamilton call the judiciary the “least dangerous” branch of the government in *Federalist No. 78*?
2. What are statutes? What are judges roles regarding statutes?
3. What is judicial review and why is it such an significant power of American judges?
4. When did the judiciary first assert the power of judicial review? Explain the case.
5. What was the 2dn time the Court asserted judicial review?
6. How long are judges in office? How can they be removed?
7. What is the argument supporting life time appointments for judges?
8. What are the problems with lifetime appointments for judges?

9.4\*

1. What is case precedent?
2. What is meant by original intent / judicial restraint and how is it related to flexible interpretation / judicial activism?
3. Explain the legal model, attitudinal model, strategic voting model and new institutionalism of constitutional interpretation.