

Warm Up Questions

1b

1. What are some things that have changed about the Ivy League schools in the past 300 years? (Used to be all-male, originally had a Christian [conservative] ethos, students used to be from elite/wealthy families.)
2. Where do they get their money? (NOT from the government; from endowments and alumni gifts)
3. All but one Ivy League college was founded before what historical event? (1776, America's "birthday")

2a

complete #5 on page 60 and #7 on page 61 (of the "Colleges" handout)

Summary: Community colleges and other public institutions of higher education have made a college education possible for many young people in the US. Some of these schools started out as land-grant college for the working class.

2b

- **1. What are the major elements of "the American Dream"? Any American has the opportunity to gain success through hard work, which produces prosperity and a happier life.
- **2. A key point in Monday's lecture was that Americans believe that "business" protects and reflects basic American values like competition, freedom, equality of opportunity, and hard work, better than other institutions.
2. Why did Mr. Krigline show us this photo? In the US, "a government job" is not seen as the "best opportunity for people to become wealthy"—business is.

3a

1. What percent of new companies in America fail within the first few years? (a) **around half**, (b) about a third, (c) around 15%
2. The text said that most Americans work in (a) large corporations, (b) government-owned companies or government offices, (c) **businesses with less than 100 employees**.
3. Most "new jobs" are created by (a) the government, (b) **small businesses**, (c) what Mr. Florida calls "the Creative Class."

3b

1. **T/F** Many American cartoons are created with adults in mind (esp. parents); they are not "just for children."
2. **T/F** Most Americans believe that business supports ideals and values that are important to the country.
7. **T/F** Women now make up about half of the workforce and are CEOs of about half of the large corporations in the USA.

Then read aloud the questions on the bottom of page 136. These questions might be asked at your first job interview.

4a

--Make a list of some of the major factors that caused the financial crisis (according to "The Flaw"). *They might include the asset (housing) price bubble, lack of investment options, income inequality, too much personal debt (esp. due to refinancing), overdependence on credit cards (and too much easy credit), predatory lending (to people who didn't understand or couldn't afford mortgages), CDOs (and the "disconnect" between the asset and investors), social pressure to buy "more house" than you could afford, and "the flaw."*

--What is "the flaw"? *That's hard to say! I'd say it was either the last thing Hyman said (income inequality), or Dr. Greenspan's comments (a flaw in the "Efficient Markets Hypothesis," namely that it only holds true for goods markets, not asset markets)*

4b

--Tell your partner the name of one of the three branches of the US government; your partner will briefly explain what that branch is. (Legislative=congress (which has "two independent houses"), Executive=president, Judicial=Supreme Court/Federal Courts)

--Illustrate the "checks and balances" in the US government by saying (briefly) how each branch can affect the creation or implementation of a new law. [*The President suggests a law; the Congress passes the law (and this is a difficult process!); the President can sign or veto the law; the Supreme Court can rule that the law is unconstitutional (or choose not to "hear" a suit against it).*]

5a

--Tell your partner why Mr. Krigline belongs to "Lobby Groups" like the AARP and TESOL. How does he feel about their "lobbying" activities?

--Is the "Independent Party" really a "party"? Explain. Are more Americans Democrats, Republicans, Independents, or something else?

--What are some of the major reasons why so many people do not vote? ("my vote won't make a difference because my district/state is already strongly Dem/Rep," "my vote won't make a difference because the candidates are all the same," "I don't like either party candidate," "I don't care about politics")

5b

--Why do you think this program ("Duck Dynasty") is so popular in the US? [it reminds urban people of their rural/frontier heritage; they are an example of "rags to riches"; they illustrate "individual freedom" with their unusual style; they have strong family values/ties; the show is humorous; the show presents "good, clean fun" when so many other shows present sex/violence that is contrary to traditional values]

6a

1. According to American social scientists,

a. the main value of sports is "physical exercise."

b. children need to learn "team work" and "the competitive ethic" taught in sports in order to be successful later in life.

c. sports strengthen equality of opportunity, competition, hard work and other basic American values.

2. According to Mr. Krigline's lecture, soccer is gaining popularity in the US because

a. parents are worried about physical injuries in sports like American football.

b. boys and girls can play it together.

c. not much equipment is required.

d. all of the above.

3. Together, list some of the problems caused when competition is carried too far.

6b

1. According to our textbook, what is the main difference between "organized sports" and "recreational activities"?

The latter is not expected to encourage competition (even though some of these activities are really "sports" and can involve competition.)

2. What does "preventable cause of death" mean? Give at least two examples.

This kills many people, even though better human choices would almost eliminate the problem. Examples include obesity, smoking, drunk driving...

****3. Why are so many Americans overweight? Together, list some of the major reasons.**

Sedentary lifestyle, poor eating habits, health and diet information is confusing or contradictory, the cultural value of comfort (people eat what they like, and don't like the "pain" of exercise), "the culture of overindulgence" (larger portions and second helpings),

fast food, busy lifestyles (Mr Krigline said he thinks “busy lifestyles” is the primary reason for America’s health/fitness problems.)

Chapter Summary Points & Key Questions (from PPT)

Ivy League/Public Colleges

--What are some good and bad things about the importance of credentials when someone is looking for a job?

--Peking U and the American Ivy League colleges were once “single-sex” institutions. What are the good and bad aspects of this? Why did they change?

--What do you think the role of a college is: to broaden perspectives, teach people how to “teach themselves”, create a love for learning, prepare people for a career, create a group sophisticated enough to move the nation forward/lead companies/etc, or something else?

Explain.

Chapter 6 (Business)

Entrepreneur as Hero... (p120ff) Key ideas

--In the 20th century, those who built America’s steel, railroad, and oil industries were seen as heroes, like those of the frontier days. (rugged individualists)

--Horatio Alger’s novels stressed American virtues like self-reliance and hard work, as men went from “rags to riches.”

--Many want to be their own boss. But it is hard to find the money to get a business started, and hard to compete. Half of new companies fail. But small businesses provide the majority of new jobs, and over 50% work in businesses with under 100 employees. But innovation remains important; one third of the workforce belongs to “the creative class.”

CEOs... (p122ff) Key Points

--Americans tend to think that risk-taking entrepreneurs should be allowed to reap huge rewards, but aren’t as happy when CEOs make millions while their workers struggle to make a living.

--Unfortunately, corporate scandals and CEO greed caused many problems in the 1990s, under both “liberal” and “conservative” US Presidents (Bush, Clinton, Bush)

--Some CEOs (e.g., Lee Iococca) are highly respected, mainly for saving thousands of jobs.

Global Marketplace... (p123ff) Key Points

--Until the 1990s, American businesses operated entirely in America; today an “American car” has parts/services that come from Korea, Japan, Germany, Singapore, Ireland and India.

--Manufacturing jobs used to provide high incomes in the US; thousands have been laid off in the past 20 years. This is one thing Americans think about when they think of “China.”

Changing Workforce... (p124ff)

--Though few women “worked” before WW2, today women make up half of the workforce—but only 10-15% of the CEOs.

--Is there still a “glass ceiling”?

Glass ceiling: an invisible ceiling (top of a room) that women and minorities could not get through, to reach the highest levels of management or politics (due to subtle discrimination).

--Those on the “mommy/daddy track” don’t earn as much as those willing to sacrifice “family” for “work.” But is success really worth the price? (On his/her death bed, no one ever says “I wish I’d spent more time at work.”)

--Will all the new immigrants eventually bring American workers more equality?

If you had to choose between a high-paying job but so-so family life, and a great family life but so-so pay, WHICH would you choose, and why? What sacrifices would you be willing to make in order to be really successful or to make a really significant contribution in your field? Which is more important to you: job security (the “iron rice bowl”), the chance to advance in

your company or field, the environment of your workplace, stress level at work, personality of co-workers, benefits other than money... or other factors you might include?

Chapter 7 (American Government)

--Disclaimer: Remember that this course is not designed to convince you that “the American way” is the best or only way; we seek to understand differences between our countries, and broaden our minds so that we can work more effectively in our multicultural world.

Suspicion and Organization (p142ff) Key ideas

--Because the earliest Americans were suspicious of and unhappy with the power of Great Britain, they created a political system designed to keep the government from doing evil, more than to enable it to do good.

--The legislative branch has two houses. The Senate (100) gives each state equal representation; the House of Representatives (435) gives power based on population. It passes laws, budgets, treaties...; confirms judges.

--The executive branch is the president... He “carries out the laws” (proposes reforms, budgets; recommends judges; heads the army)

--The judicial branch is the court system (esp. the Supreme Court). It “interprets the law and determines if a law is constitutional.”

--“Checks and balances” keep each branch from getting or using too much power. Each branch can “undo” what the others do, though this is “easier said than done.” Some key verbs to understand include: to pass/sign (a law), to ratify, to veto, to override, adjourn and to rule/declare (sth as unconstitutional)

--The Bill of (10) Rights protects individual freedoms and...

--#10 protects the states’ rights (“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”)

Elections (p144ff) Key ideas

--The President, the House and the Senate are elected separately. (Federal Judges are not elected, though local judges are. Some judges belong to a political party, but others are “nonpartisan.”)

--It is common for each political party to control at least one of these three branches at any given time.

--The President serves for 4 years (maximum of 2 “terms” now). (Longest was FDR’s 12 years.)

--House representatives serve for 2 years; Senate representatives serve for 6 years. Either can be elected without limit. (The longest is 58 years in the House; 47 years in the Senate.)

--The “Electoral College” (not popular vote) determines the President (which makes many states important to these elections, not just the biggest states).

Ideal of Free Individual (p146ff) Key ideas

--President Jefferson glorified the farmer for being free individuals (not dependent on govt. or others)

--After the Civil War (1860s), successful businesspeople replaced the farmer. It was thought that government shouldn’t interfere.

--In the 1920s, common people started to borrow and invest, then the depression came and businesspeople lost respect. (Then the government started to grow, in order to protect the common people.)

--In the early 1930s, “government men” were heroes, fighting crime and gangs who profited from illegal activities.

Era of Big Government (p146ff) Key ideas

--During the 1930s, the “Great Depression” created a need for government action and assistance (called the “New Deal”). Pure “self-reliance” seemed impossible, so taxes increased and the government grew to meet needs.

--Government assistance expanded in “the Great Society” (1960s), creating a “welfare state” to help the unemployed, the fatherless, the sick, the elderly...

--Some fear that all this “help” weakens self-reliance, and that “all these people who are dependent on the government” will vote for those who promise the most “help” (instead of doing what is best for the country).

--But since every worker contributes through taxes, they consider themselves “entitled” to retirement benefits (i.e., modest payments and inexpensive health insurance—*entitlement* programs called Social Security and Medicare).

Special Interest Groups (p148ff) Key ideas

--As the government spends more, more people/groups are making demands for their own interests. These lobbying groups help members take advantage of or protect themselves from government.

--The money (to pay lobbyists to live/work in DC) comes from members and corporations. The biggest groups have become very powerful (NRifleA, NEducationA, AARetiredP).

New Individualism... (p149ff) Key ideas

--Some believe that lobby groups are a “new individualism,” since the goal is still to use this tool to get individual goals.

--Deeply-held beliefs and huge sums of money put great pressure on politicians who are “always” raising money to get re-elected. Like Social Security reform and the need for better health care/insurance, few people are willing to “pay the price” to reform the lobbying system.

Political Landscape... (p149ff) Key ideas

--Those who need or want the government to “help” are attracted to the Democratic Party (and a lot of people feel that America needs help to become more “fair”). The Republican Party attracts those who dream of prosperity, those suspicious of government control, and those concerned with America’s slipping morality.

--Over half of Americans are not attracted to either party, so to win an election, both Democrats and Republicans must “move toward the center” where most “Independent” Americans are.

What, in your opinion, is the best aspect of the American political system? What are the best aspects of the Chinese political system? What are the main political issues in China?

Key Constitutional Concepts

What was the main point?

(1) The Constitution is supposed to protect the rights of all Americans, and even a poor criminal has the right to “equality under the law.”

(2) This film illustrates the “checks and balances” that are so important to the American government. Everyone submits to the Constitution, which gives each branch certain powers. Here, we saw the power of the judicial branch. They saw something in the Constitution and were thus able to force all state/local governments to do it (provide a defense lawyer), even if the legislative and executive branches had never “passed a law” requiring this.

Chapter 10 (Leisure in America)

Sports and Values (p216ff) Key points

--Sociologists say that sports reflect and strengthen a culture’s values, so they have a serious purpose (in addition to fun and exercise). In America, these reinforced “values” include equality of opportunity, teamwork, competition, hard work and courage.

--African-Americans dominate football and basketball; 25% of pro baseball players are Latinos. Women’s sports have grown in popularity.

--“Leisure is dangerous”; “there are more committed Christians in sports than any other occupation.” Billy Graham (very famous international Christian leader)

Competition... too far (p217ff) Key points

--Some coaches and parents push players (esp. teens) too hard, saying “winning is everything.”

--Instead of “honorable competition,” sports can turn violent.

--Big money can turn players into entertainers.

--Fans become second to “winning and earning more.”

--Increased injuries, drug abuse, gambling

Recreation (p219ff) Key points

--A main difference between organized sports and recreational activities is that the latter is not expected to encourage competition, but many people “work hard” even when they “play.”

--Enjoying the arts is another form of recreation: symphony concerts, theater performances, painting, acting, playing music & dancing. Others like to “learn” at museums, lectures, educational tours, and special courses (like self-defense or language classes). Handicrafts are also popular.

--Many like “adventure,” but even there Americans expect comfort and professional service.

Health & Fitness (p221ff) Key Points

--2/3 of Americans are overweight; 1/5 are obese; less than half exercise.

--*Why are a growing number of children, both in America and China, becoming overweight?*

What can be done about this?

--*How will the “rise” of private cars and electric bikes affect China’s health?*

--Smoking and Obesity are “preventable causes of death”.

--Some people complain that the “advice” is confusing and contradictory.

--In the end, people eat what they want (tastes good); abundance and convenience produce a “culture of overindulgence”

--Busy lifestyles also make fast food a common substitute to real (and healthier) cooking, which takes time. (Mr Krigline said he thinks this is the primary reason for America’s health/fitness problems.)

The Impact of Television (p222ff) Key points

--Irony 1: As Americans get fatter, actresses become thinner. This makes young girls insecure, and so obsessed with losing weight that some develop anorexia (forced starvation) or bulimia (eat, then force yourself to throw up).

--Irony 2: The more Americans watch thin people on TV, the less likely they are to exercise. “Couch potatoes” (nothing but eyes) prefer TV/sofa/“channel surfing” to any other activity.

--TV also lowers kids’ academic ability, shortens attention span, exposes people to explicit sex/violence, weakens moral values.

--Educational TV isn’t as popular as MTV & regular shows.

--Many kids watch TV without a parent around.

Impact of the Internet (p224ff) Key points

--With all the ways people use the Net, parents worry about what their kids do and see on line.

--Some applaud countries like China that regulate the Net and it’s usage. Clearly, bad people use the Net to do bad things.

--Others say that regulation could threaten the Net’s growth and vitality. It would also add expense or reduce profit to many who legally make money on line.

--Joe Robinson’s book says that Americans need more vacation time (like people get in Europe—and China?). But the weak economy and the demands of many jobs make it hard for many to get or use “time off.”

**This chapter is about “leisure”. What is the purpose of “leisure”? [p 225: “Vacation time renews the spirit and gives people the energy and vitality to lead productive lives.” Some people use spare time to relax, while others seek new challenges.]

--Some people choose to stay busy with many activities and responsibilities; it looks (or feels) like they rarely have “free time”. If they are not being paid to do those things, can we call them “leisure activities”? Why or why not? What advice would you give to people who always say they are “too busy” to “just have fun”?

Other main ideas from ppts

10 Keys to College Success

Professor Janet Bean, 2011 Outstanding Teacher Award

10. Think of this as your job.

9. Take 16 credits, not 12 (even though that’s “full time”).

8. Do your laundry and wear clean clothes.

7. Put yourself on a schedule - no one will do it for you.

6. Don’t waste money. Remember that loans have to be paid back. Remember that most classes cost \$1000, so finish what you start and act as if you spent \$1000.

5. Do something out of character – sports, art, plays, library, physical ed.... Do something you’ve never done.

4. Learn to get along with people different from you.

3. Listen to your parents, even if they are not here. That “inner voice” should encourage and prod you to do your best.

2. You are not alone – profs, deans, RA’s, and counselors are here to help (take advantage of this when you need it).

1. Determine to have integrity: both academic integrity and integrity in your relationships with others.

Tell your partner which “key” was most interesting or surprising. Why is “integrity” so important in college?

The Flaw

I forgot to put an asterisk by each term on line, but they are all “important”

--Efficient Markets Hypothesis: The “wisdom of the crowd” is always the correct price of the item (within a short span of time)—theoretically, goods markets are stable (there’s no way to have a “bubble”). But that’s true only if people are using what they buy; if they buy “assets” (hoping to sell them for a profit later), the market is unstable.

--“In goods markets, when the price rises, the demand drops; in asset markets, when prices rise, demand often rises as well.” George Cooper, Blue Crest Capital, Fund Manager

--Struggling home buyers (common people) were looking for a way to make money in a troubled economy. Wages were not bringing in enough money, and the banks were offering very little “interest.” So, people thought: “...maybe they can make it through buying a house and seeing the value of that house increase.” These easy-to-get mortgages were their way to share in the American dream. And on the other hand, the income inequality produced a big supply of capital (among the very rich) to be invested in these risky mortgages. So, while the rich were not willing to pay better wages, they were willing to lend money to people who really couldn’t afford to borrow so much. (Louis Hyman--Harvard)

--*What cultural pressures help keep the “demand” high for apartments in China today?*

--*What are some of the crucial differences between China and America (related to this issue)?*

China’s government has a lot more control over banking, currency value, and the economy.

And Chinese people generally borrow less money from the bank—they borrow from relatives.

Main ideas from text/materials/lectures

Ivy League

The term Ivy League means different things: elite institutions for the country's ruling class, a pathway to top corporate or government jobs, a way to gain prestige.

As of 2014, 13 of America's 44 Presidents have attended from Ivy League schools, including every "winner" since 1988 (plus 5 of the 7 "losers").

Public Colleges

Community colleges and other public institutions of higher education have made a college education possible for many young people in the US. Some of these schools started out as land-grant college for the working class.

Over 20% of undergrads have taken at least one Distance Education course (2008-08).

American Government

--I believe the American system is uniquely American—that is, it worked pretty well in the US for 200 years, but probably would not work as well in any other country—and some of the recent developments make me worried about how much longer it can work in America. Why? (Answered with quotes from America's 4th and 2nd Presidents, plus Tocqueville)

--"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." James Madison, 1778

--"Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." John Adams, 1798

French Sociologist Alexis de Tocqueville (1835)

"Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness* did I understand the secret of America's genius and power. America is great because America is [morally] good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." *i.e., heard Christian teachers emphasize the need for justice and

"right" living (正义)

--Today, America (like Europe) is a "post-Christian" culture. Though the Bible had been a primary textbook in schools since 1776, the Supreme Court stopped prayer and Bible reading in schools in 1963 (since then, grades have declined and violence has increased dramatically). America's pulpits no longer "flame with righteousness" and the majority of her citizens are no longer a "moral and religious people." Tocqueville was right about so many other things, that I fear he is right about this too. Time will tell!

Leisure

--Mr Krigline showed photos of young boys learning to play football. While he took those photos, a coach came up and asked intense questions about who he was and why he was taking photos. This surprised Mr. Krigline since America is a "free country" where the government does not restrict the use of cameras, and the press is free to photograph just about anything.

--Mr Krigline showed photos of a high school football game, emphasizing that these games are popular "community events" supported even by people/businesses who have no connection to the high school. They are also important to "school spirit." Sports, marching bands and other extracurricular activities build friendships and make school "fun" for many young people.

"Q" pages

All "opening quotes" (know the key/AWL words, and the quote's meaning)

Chapter 6: 119*, 122, 124, 127, 128, 141, 147, 151, 152, 219, 225*, 228