AP Government
Mrs. Stafstrom

Vocabulary
Chapter 1 – Study of American Government

Chapter Focus
Chapter 1: The Study of American Government

The purpose of this chapter is to give you a preview of the major questions to be asked throughout the textbook, as well as to introduce some key terms in the basic vocabulary of American politics. After reading and reviewing the material in this chapter, you should be able to do each of the following:

1. List the two basic questions to be asked about American (or any other) government, and show that they are distinct questions.

2. Explain what is meant by *power* in general human terms and by *political power* in particular, relating the latter to authority, legitimacy, and democracy in the context of American government.

3. Distinguish among the three concepts of democracy mentioned in the chapter, explaining in which of these senses the textbook refers to American government as *democratic.*

4. Differentiate between majoritarian politics and elitist politics, explaining the four major theories of the latter.

5. Explain how political change makes political scientists cautious in stating how politics works or what values dominate it.

http://college.cengage.com/polisci/wilson/am_gov/9e/students/chapterfocus/ch01.html

Vocabulary to learn:

anarchy
authority
bureaucrats
bureaucratic view
democracy
Democratic Centralism
direct or participatory democracy
Elitist view

freedom
liberty
legitimacy
majoritarian politics
Marxist view
Karl Marx
Max Weber
Pluralistic view
power
power elite
power elite view /theory
public policy
referendum
regime
representative democracy/ republic
C. Wright Mill