

**POLITICAL CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION**  
**Class Notes**  
**Revised 9/25/2014**

**I. Where Do You Fit?**

- A. What did you learn about your political ideology type?
- B. Are you similar or different from your parents? Explain why.

**II. Political Culture**

- A. **Political Culture** – commonly shared attitudes, beliefs and core values about how government should operate (Sabato)
- B. Think/Pair/Share: Describe FIVE common elements of American political culture > Americans believe....  
Possible answers include:
  - 1. *Liberty* - preoccupation w/ rights
  - 2. *Equality* - equal vote, equal opportunity, but not equal wealth
  - 3. *Democracy* - politicians accountable to the people
  - 4. *Civic Duty* - serve community
  - 5. *Individual Responsibility* - barring disability, individuals are responsible for own actions and well being
- C. **Political Efficacy**
  - 1. Citizens' faith and trust in their government responsive to needs of individuals
  - 2. Extent to which citizens' feel like they understand and can influence government

**III. Political Socialization**

- A. **Political socialization** - process by which parents and others teach children about values, beliefs and attitudes of political culture
- B. Agents of Socialization or Influencing Factors
  - 1. Family = #1
  - 2. Sectional differences (n v. S)
  - 3. Rural v. Urban
  - 4. Race & ethnicity
  - 5. Gender
  - 6. Sexual orientation
  - 7. Religion
  - 8. Social class
  - 9. Occupation
  - 10. Age
  - 11. Education
  - 12. National identity

**IV. Pop Culture: Identify Examples of Political Culture and Socialization**

- Dave Matthews Band - [http://www.metacafe.com/watch/sy-1586348600/dave\\_matthews\\_band\\_american\\_baby\\_official\\_music\\_video/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/sy-1586348600/dave_matthews_band_american_baby_official_music_video/)
- SNL Seinfeld's History Class - <http://cooperativelearning.nuvvo.com/lesson/9592-seinfeld-teaches-history>
- "Did You Know? 2014" - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrJfDUzD7M>