**Introduction to Political Science Key Terms**

Politics – the process by which we select our government leaders and what policies they pursue (Edwards, Wattenberg, Lineberry, 2011)

Popular Consent – the principle that governments must draw their powers from the consent of the governed

Majority Rule – the central premise of direct democracy in which only policies that collectively garner the support of a majority of voters will be made into law

Individualism – the idea that people should take the initiative, be self-sufficient, and accumulate the material advantages necessary for their own well-being

Political Culture – the people’s collective beliefs and attitudes about governments and the political process

The Pluralist Theory – a theory of government and politics emphasizing that many groups, each pressing for its preferred polices, compete and counterbalance one another in the political marketplace

The Elite Theory – a theory of government and politics contending that an upper-class elite will hold most of the power and in effect run the government

The Bureaucratic Theory – a theory of government and politics in which large-scale organizations develop into the bureaucratic form, with the effect that administrators make key policy decisions

Policy Gridlock – a condition that occurs when interests conflict and no coalition is strong enough to for a majority to establish policy, so nothing gets accomplished

E-Campaigning – the practice of mobilizing voters using the Internet