Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System (pgs. 392-405)

I. Federal Court Appointees (Summarize the main points in a good paragraph)

A. *Critical Thinking*: How can Supreme Court nominees impact a President’s legacy? Explain.

B. *Critical Thinking*: Should Senators vote for Supreme Court nominees whose legal philosophes they have significant disagreements with? Explain.

C. Define **Senatorial Courtesy**

D. *Critical Thinking*: What should a President look for in choosing a Supreme Court nominee?

E. *Critical Thinking*: Does racial and gender diversity matter in selecting justices? Explain.

II. The Nature of Judicial Decision Making (Summarize the main points in a good paragraph)

A. Define **facts (of a court case)**

B. *Critical Thinking*: How does law confine what a judge can do in case? Explain.

C. *Critical Thinking*: Why is predictability in law (precedent) important? Explain.

D. *Critical Thinking*: Why is it impossible for laws to cover every possible scenario? Explain.

E. *Critical Thinking*: Why must Supreme Court justice pay some attention to public opinion? Explain.

III. Judicial Power and Democratic Government (Summarize the main points in a good paragraph)

A. *Critical Thinking*: What is the danger in the courts being perceived as making law in place of the people’s elected representatives? Explain.

B. Define **Originalism Theory**

C. Define **Living Constitution Theory**

D. *Critical Thinking*: Which theory, originalism or living Constitution, do you believe is most appropriate? Explain.

E. Define **Judicial Restraint**

F. Define **Judicial Activism**

G. *Critical Thinking*: Which theory, restraint or activism, do you believe is most appropriate? Explain.

Quiz

Write two good multiple choice questions (not definitions) based on your reading in this section. Be sure to mark your correct answer.