Discussion Sheet #3: PRIMIS: *Elections*

**What:** Please complete this discussion exercise for Abramowitz, *The Strategic Env. of Elections*, p. 123

**How?** Use the form and space below.

**When?** Due at the beginning of class, Wednesday, October 20

*Abramowitz, .......Elections*

1. According to Abramowitz, “the rules of the electoral game are not neutral.” **Discuss** this point using **evidence** from the reading to make a clear summary of his argument. Be sure to explain *Duverger’s Law* as a part of your summary.

2. Briefly explain **why** and **how** **partisanship** and **decentralization** distinguish the way that elections are administered in the US.
3. The US runs the most expensive electoral process in the world. Why? What do you see as the most significant consequences of this feature of US elections? How is *Buckley v. Valeo (1976)* important to this discussion?

4. The basic electoral institutions of the US have been fairly stable for the past half-century. However, US *society* and *culture* have changed dramatically. Summarize how these changes have altered the way politicians *appeal* to *voters* and the way *voters respond* by using at least three (3) illustrations.