Discussion 2

Greg Cunningham

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In the first video of the Crash Course, Craig Benzine teaches about the separation of the power system in the US government. He also talks about the systems of checks and balances, which is an essential component of the US administrative structure. According to him, the separation of the power systems in the US, is quite unique, compared to other such systems in the world. He credits the uniqueness of this system to the fact that they are interdependent, and enjoy the constitutional cover. He narrates different articles from the Constitution, which talks about the roles, functions, and administrative approach of these distinctive elements of the administrative structure of the US government (Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances n.d.). If viewed from a theoretical perspective, the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches keep a tight check over each other, and prevent any single branch from becoming too powerful. Each of these branches of government, exercise their powers according to the Constitutional pattern conferred upon them (Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances n.d.).

From a historical perspective, Craig believes that such a system was designed, to prevent the President from becoming too powerful, or from preventing him to act like an autocratic ruler. Craig believes that for the most part in American history this system has worked, and almost each and every President has respected the inflexible constitutional duties and rights of these branches of government. During the latter part of the video, Craig explains which branch is supposed to perform which role. In his second video, Craig has explained the administrative division among the American Court system (Structure of the Court System n.d.). He believes that the American Court system is working effectively, for the reason that its structure is overlapping and the decisions made by Courts can be reviewed, at any Court throughout the US (including the Federal Courts and the Supreme Court). In the video, he also talks about the circuit courts, trial courts, appellate courts and the state’s Supreme Court (Structure of the Court System n.d.).

He presents the idea to the viewers of how these courts are concerned of their jurisdictions and how they handle such a vast majority of cases. One of the surprising facts, he reveals, is that many different cases do not arrive at the Supreme Court (Structure of the Court System n.d.). Different lower courts, domestic consumer courts, and trial courts manage the disputes which arise among the citizens of America. In the later parts of this video, he talks about how cases went up to the Supreme Court, where he explains the concept of judicial review and of the trial courts.

The Federal Communication Commission, on the other hand, is a critical body of the American government. This Federal agency is required to govern different broadcasters working in the US, to speculate landline and wireless communication being made into and out from the US, and regulate cable television providers (What We Do 2010). This agency is also required to monitor the satellite commission being made to space. The President of the United States appoints five different commissioners (who are later confirmed by the US Senate) to serve in the office for a term of five years. Being a critical branch of the American government, the FCC is tied in the following manner to the three branches mentioned above.

* The agency takes a leadership role to strengthen the defense of the American nation in terms of nations’ communication, which are made through and among these branches of government as well.
* FCC encourages the highest and best practices to view the spectrum of things taking place both at the domestic level and at the international level.
* Take supportive measures for improvements in the nation economy, which has a direct impact on three critical branches of the American government.

The FCC agency takes a leadership role and thus relates to other branches of government in an essential and effective manner.

# References:

*Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances: Crash Course Government and Politics #3*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bf3CwYCxXw (January 31, 2020).

*Structure of the Court System: Crash Course Government and Politics #19*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGyx5UEwgtA (January 31, 2020).

“What We Do.” 2010. *Federal Communications Commission*. https://www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/what-we-do (January 31, 2020).