

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Summer 2010 Assignment

Teacher – Mr. Bisson

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Course Introduction/Assignment

Welcome to your journey into American politics. The A.P. course you will be taking is designed to provide you with a glimpse of American government from the prospective of social scientists in field of Political Science.

Unlike traditional “history” courses, this program of study is intended guide you toward the next level of exploration and understanding re: the manner and realities of how our political system works, how institutions and branches of government affect one another and how external forces such as the media, interest groups and public opinion, for example, all play a role in the development and implementation of policy making.

Assignment

410 points possible

*** All work should be double-spaced, 12-point, times new roman, arial, verdana, or tahoma font. Please staple each section to avoid loose pages getting lost.

Part I – Summer Reading Assignment (Approximately 2-3 pages, each)

50 points possible total

Each student will write a book summary. You are to take rough outline notes as you read the book (which are to be attached to your report). Each book report should be approximately 750-1000 words in length. Refer to attached Reading List for some suggestions of titles and assignment requirement

Part II - Political Television (6 TEMPLATE pages, total)

60 points possible – 10 points each

Each student is asked to watch one political program, every week, for six (6) weeks. Complete a short written commentary (a TEMPLATE is provided below) featuring the who, what, when, where, and why, as well as a summation/what did you question? What did you learn? I suggest that you watch a variety of shows, don't settle on a single one.

Suggestions include but are not limited to: ABC's *Face the Nation*, ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*; CNN's *Hardball*; PBS' *Washington Week in Review*; FoxNews *O'Reilly Factor*; MSNBC's *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*.

Part III – Political Current Events Journal

300 points possible – 30 entries at 10 points each

Each student is required to keep a journal (120-150 page spiral notebook – you may choose to keep a small binder into which you will place printed entries) of their individual study of current events that relate to U.S. government and politics. You will make a minimum of three journal entries a week from different days (each should be approximately a page in length – one sided (if your ink bleeds through to the other side), black or blue ink only - legible). Personal heading is to be written on the inside of the front cover. Each entry will consist of a source citation in MLA format, a summary of the article, and a reflection on the article including what you learned and what you question (and why).

Assignment due date

All written components are due the first day of class.

Point deductions will be deducted for lateness at a rate of 20% per day.

Have a great summer!

TEMPLATE

Your Name: _____

Weekly Political Commentary

Name of Show:

Date:

Host:

Guests:

Examination of:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

Summation: What did you question? What did you learn?