

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Summer 2007 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 perspective 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

460 points possible

*** All work should be formatted as 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)

100 points possible total

Each student is asked to write two book reports. You are to take rough outline notes as you read the books (which are to be attached to your reports). Each book report should be approximately 700-800 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?

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.

Part III – Political Current Events Journal

300 points possible – 30 entries at 10 points each

Each student will be required to keep a journal (120-150 page spiral notebook) 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 (each should be approximately a page in length – one sided, black or blue ink only).

Assignment due date

All written components are due the first week of classes

Point deductions will be taken for lateness.

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?