

US Government / AP Final Thesis Project Fall Semester – 2009

Final Due Date: Friday, January 22, 2010

Question: Explain the four competing theories of American government. By examining various historical and contemporary aspects of our government (i.e. the meaning of the Constitution and contemporary problems such as torture; the complexities of the various branches of government in conflict with capitalism; and finally the trajectory of the country as a whole as it relates to the maintenance of empire), create an overall thesis suggesting which of the four appears to be the more descriptive with regard to the “necessary and ordinary operations of American government.”

Sample Outline

I. Cover Page (no page number)

II. Table of Contents (no page number)

III. Chapter 1 – Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief description of the four theories followed by a brief statement of your thesis outlining the details of how you will explore this question. *Begin page numbering here (2 to 3 pages in length).*

IV. Chapter 2 – The Constitution and torture (first research project).

V. Chapter 3 – The question of how wealth and corporate power are or are not having a negative effect on democracy (second research project).

VI. Chapter 4 – The direction that the United States is headed in terms of its longevity as a world power and how this is connected to the four theories (third research project).

VII. (Alternate) Chapter 4 – The public policy process. How is it made and for who’s benefit? Possible topics: Energy policy, foreign policy, the military-industrial complex, etc...(alternate third research project).

VIII. Chapter 5 – Conclusion – a wrap-up of your thesis and the conclusions that you have come to based on the evidence you have uncovered (2 to 3 pages in length).

IX. References page – please complete in APA style.

GRADING RUBRIC

1. Make sure to include citations *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.* Using another author’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.

2. Please type all work on a computer. Only one copy is necessary. It will not be returned.

3. An “A” paper will be:

- a) fully documented and cited using the APA format
- b) a *minimum* of 25 - 30 pages in length (with page numbering)
- c) research *beyond* authors provided
- d) turned in *on time* (1-22-10).