

**Diablo Valley College – San Ramon Valley Campus**  
**POLSC 121 – 9084: Spring Research Project 2018**  
**“The 2016 Elections and the Four Theories”**

**Question: The 2016 presidential election in the United States was presented (as always) as two distinct visions for America’s future. Examine the platforms that were put forward by the two major parties and answer the following: How different is our political and economic system now that Trump has won the election? Examine the critical positions taken by third party candidates and alternative theories.**

**Sample Outline**  
**(But feel free to set up this essay as you wish)**

**I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something that you consider relevant about this issue (1 page).**

**II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from your readings and other evidence you have found to support your position (8 pages).**

- a. Textbook DPE on American elections (Heineman).
- b. The Political Compass, its meaning and applicability to contemporary politics
- c. Traditional interpretations
  - 1. Democrat / liberal
  - 2. Republican / conservative
- d. Third party perspectives and candidates
  - 1. Sifry on third party politics
- e. Critical interpretations (multiple authors)

**III. Conclusion – ...Now that Trump has won the presidency, Americans can expect “America [to be] Great Again” or will it be “business as usual”? (1 page).**

**Extras:**

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

- 2. An “A” paper will be:
  - a) *fully* documented and cited with at least 2 – 3 books;
  - b) a *minimum* of 13 pages (to include a title page, abstract, and reference page, meaning 10 *full* pages of text analysis);
  - c) research *beyond* the authors I provided; and
  - d) turned in *on time* (April 3, 2018).