

Diablo Valley College – San Ramon Valley Campus
POLSC 121 – 9487: Fall Research Project 2020

“The 2020 Elections and the Four Theories”

Question: Yech!! The 2020 presidential election in the United States is already upon us. These elections are always presented as two distinct visions for America’s future. Examine the platforms that are put forward by the two major parties and answer the following: How different is our political and economic *status quo* now that Trump has won the election (and now been impeached!)? How different will it be if a Biden wins this November? To get a more critical perspective, examine the various 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. Very important: What *is* the status quo politically and economically. (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 – ...If Trump can get one more term in office (or the Dems can manage to remove him), Americans can expect America to be “great again” or will it be in both cases “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 15 pages (to include a title page, abstract, and reference page, meaning 12 *full* pages of text analysis);
- c) research *beyond* the authors I provided; and
- d) turned in *on time* (November 17, 2020).