

## Research Project Two: Fall 2018 – US Government / AP

### “Capitalism and Democracy”

Final Due Date: Friday, October 12, 2018 (late papers will be marked down one letter grade).

Question: Your Wilson textbook tends to downplay the effects of the economic system on politics, mentioning this system (capitalism) at only a few points in the entire text (pp. 79 and 479) suggesting we not “clench our fists and shout pro-business or anti-business slogans at each other.” It therefore has a somewhat benign description of the relationship between capitalism and democracy. Beginning with an analysis of the text (democratic / bureaucratic theory) position, review some of the *critical interpretations* on the interaction of capitalism and democracy and give your own evaluation as to whether democracy can indeed thrive within a corporate capitalist system.

#### Sample Outline

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

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence that you have found to support this position.

- a. Text DPE – what does the textbook say about whether or not the US can be considered a democracy and how capitalism enhances or distorts this reality (check pages 9, 79, and 479).
- b. Other Traditional DPE – supporting positions from the pluralist perspective.
- c. Critical DPE – what do some of the readings say on this issue. You should include but are not limited to the following scholarship: Parenti, Boyer, Alperovitz, Hightower, Street and Kelly.
- d. Outside DPE – are there other authors that you have examined that have a unique and/or important position on this question. They can come from any theoretical perspective.

III. Conclusion – from your reading of the various authors and theoretical positions, it is clear that democracy and capitalism CAN / CANNOT co-exist together in a workable and positive relationship for the people of the United States.

#### Extras:

1. Make sure to use the APA form of citation *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 other’s work without providing proper citation is plagiarism and grounds for immediate failure on this essay.
2. Please type all work on a computer and print only one copy.
3. This project will form the 1st chapter of your final thesis paper.
4. An “A” paper will be: a) fully documented and cited; b) a *minimum* of 13 pages of text (including the 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* (October 12, 2018).