

**US Government / AP Final Thesis Project – Fall 2016**  
**“The Four Theories of American Government”**

**Final Due Date: Friday, January 13, 2017. This is a “drop dead” date. No papers accepted after this date.**

**Question: Explain the four competing theories of American government. By examining various historical and contemporary aspects of our government (i.e. the theoretical aspects of the executive branch; a critical analysis of the relationship between capitalism and democracy; and the future of American power), 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. Title Page (page number 1)**

**II. Abstract Page (page number 2)**

**III. Main Body (beginning with page number 3)**

**a. 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 overall question (2 to 3 pages in length).**

**b. The Executive Branch and democracy: Serving the people or elite interests? (first research project – approximately 7 pages).**

**c. The relationship between capitalism and democracy: Happy or dysfunctional marriage? (second research project – approximately 7 pages).**

**d. The future of American power: Bright or bleak? (third research project – approximately 7 pages).**

**e. 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).**

**IV. Reference Pages – please complete in APA style (continue page numbering through last reference page).**

**GRADING RUBRIC**

**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 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. Please DO NOT STAPLE YOUR PAPER.**

**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* (Friday, January 13, 2017).**