

US Government / AP Final Thesis Project – Spring 2017
“The Four Theories of American Government”

Final Due Date: Friday, June 2, 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 question of the Constitution and torture; a critical analysis of the problem of inequality; and the future of higher education), 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.”

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 Constitution and torture. Is the policy guided by law or power? (first research project – approximately 7 pages).

c. The problem of inequality. A government responding to the needs of working families? (second research project [Mace’s paper] – approximately 7 pages).

d. The US mass media. Watchdog or lapdog? (Optional extra credit project [5% added to final class percentage] – approximately 7 pages).

e. The future of higher education. Will it be worth the cost? (third research project – approximately 7 pages).

f. 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 - 35 pages in length (with page numbering)**
- c) research *beyond* authors provided**
- d) turned in *on time* (Friday, June 2, 2017).**