

## US Government / AP Final Thesis Project – Fall 2017

### The Four Theories of American Government

Final Due Date: Friday, December 15, 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 why there is so little active participation in Government affairs and how the shrinking of the middle class might contribute to this problem), 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. Active citizen participation: If there is so little, why? And what can be done about it? (first research project – approximately 10 pages of text analysis).

c. The problem of inequality. Is the middle class large and vibrant enough to sustain democracy? (second research project – approximately 10 pages of text analysis).

d. 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, December 15, 2017).