

US Government / AP Final Thesis Project – Spring 2020

The Four Theories of American Government

Final Due Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 (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 whether corporations are making democracy impossible and whether U.S. government foreign policies are ultimately in the best interest of its citizens), 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. Corporate power and democracy: What is “corporatism”? Is corporate power making it harder for American citizens to achieve a strong democracy? (first research project – approximately 10 pages of text analysis).

c. United States foreign policy: What are the essential features of American foreign policy? Who benefits and who pays the costs of these policies? (second research project – approximately 10 pages of text analysis).

d. Higher education in America: Is college worth the cost? Why is the cost rising faster than health care and food? Should the government subsidize higher education? (Mace’s research paper – optional but a great idea!)

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 - 35 pages in length (with Mace’s maybe 45 – 60 pages)

c) research *beyond* authors provided

d) turned in *on time* (Tuesday, May 26, 2020).