

**THOMAS A. EDISON CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL**

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Requirements for AP U.S. Government and Politics Class:

**1. Participation:**

a. Although only 20% of the grade policy, when taking a college level class it is imperative that you come to class prepared and ready to discuss not only the information in the chapter but current events. Failure to take part in class discussion will negatively impact your grade

**2. Assignments:**

a) This is a major part of your grade: 30%. There are about 7 assignments per chapter and 20 chapters in the textbook. They must be handed in on time, absolutely no late homework will be accepted. Although responses can be found in both the textbook and the workbook, you are not to copy the textbook, you are to reinterpret in your own words. Any copying will not be accepted.

b) You will be required to listen to or watch a variety of news-centered media. You must keep up to date with modern day government and what is happening in our country. Discussion on current events will take place on an almost daily basis.

c) There will also be outside source reading which will be supplied by me. When this occurs, there might be a series of questions to respond to or I might ask you to write a one page reaction paper to it.

**3. Projects:**

a) There will be many projects throughout the year. Some are individual, some are group. Formats will include (but are not limited to) research papers, debates and PowerPoint presentations.

b) This is also 30% of your grade.

**3. Tests and Quizzes:**

a) Quizzes are take home and vocabulary.

b) If current events assignments are lacking, you might find a quiz as well.

c) Tests will always be 60 multiple choice questions. The AP Government exam is divided into two parts: multiple choice (50% of exam and Free Response Questions (FRQ) also 50% of the exam. We will practice writing FRQ both in class and as homework assignments. You will need to answer all 60 questions in 45 minutes and 4 FRQ in 100 minutes.

D) These are 20% of your grade

You will receive more information on the first day of class. For the summer assignment, please choose **one** of the following:

A. Read *Hardball* by Chris Matthews. Read the entire book, write any comments you have while reading the book. What is the book about? What thoughts went through your mind as you read the book? Do you agree with his point of view? Disagree? Why? What was most interesting? What did you learn?

B. Read *13 American Arguments* by Howard Fineman. See above for format.

C. Choose any president from the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- a)define public policy
- b)define domestic policy
- c)define foreign policy
- d)choose one domestic policy that your chosen president followed and/or enacted.
  - 1.when was it enacted?
  - 2.why was it enacted?
  - 3.how did the people (the public) respond to this policy?
  - 4.has the policy been successful? Why or why not?
  - 5.do you personally agree with the policy? Why or why not?
- e)do the same for foreign policy

For all of the above: 12 point font, a proper bibliography (can be picked up in the library or found online), double-spaced and no less than 3 pages but no more than 5 pages. Staple it in the upper left hand corner only: no report covers or other fancy stuff.

Additionally:

1. Pay attention to the news all summer long: NPR, Wall Street Journal, *The National Review*, CNN, C-SPAN, etc. Come to class with knowledge of what your government has done over the summer in a variety of policy areas: environment, economy, health, social welfare, etc. You can go to the library for newspapers and magazines for free (some online services charge) or listen to the political pundits on Sundays on television. For further information on what shows to watch (or listen to), see me.

2.Please go to the college board website and browse the site. Look at the format of the exam and the types of questions asked, both the multiple choice and the FRQ. You will notice with the FRQ that they will often ask you to “describe” and “explain”. I have found, that students do not understand these terms. Please define both of these words and provide an example of each.

All work will be due by Monday, September 13, 2010.