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**AP US Government and Politics 2022-2023 Summer Assignment**

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Your summer assignment for AP Government will consist of three parts:

Part I- *Hardball: How Politics Is Played Told by One Who Knows the Game* by Chris Matthews (1999 revised edition)

Part II Current Events

Part III –*The Federalist Papers* readings, No. 51 & 10

The assignments above will be **due our first day of class**.

**Part I *Hardball: How Politics is Played Told by One Who Knows the Game***

*Purpose:* The study of government and politics requires a different perspective and approach than most of you will be accustomed to. Throughout high school, your primary mode of study in the social sciences has been from a historical perspective. This course, and the study of Political Science in general, requires you to *think politically*, rather than historically. This assignment, developed collaboratively by teachers throughout the US at the AP Institute and widely assigned by AP Gov teachers throughout the country, will help you begin to think politically. We will make use of your work during the first week in class and throughout the year.

*Essential Understandings:*

- American politics is influenced by individuals who know how to wield influence and maintain power.
- American voters are often affected and persuaded by politicians who understand the importance of psychology and making a personal connection with voters.
- Public policy is created and implemented best when government officials are willing to compromise and reach consensus.

*Directions:*

In the book *Hardball*, Chris Matthews defines the title term:

*Hardball is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking, but practiced most openly and unashamedly in the world of public affairs.*

So here's what to do:

1. Buy *Hardball: How Politics Is Played Told by One Who Knows the Game* by Chris Matthews (1999 revised edition).
2. Read the book.

3. Matthews supports his observations and conclusions about American politics with a number of political maxims and anecdotal evidence from his own experience as a Washington insider. Your task is to **choose FIVE of the political maxims that he discusses (also listed below) and answer Part A and Part B for each of the maxims you have selected.** BE SURE TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC DETAILS AND EXAMPLES! After you finish reading the book, this written portion should take 1 – 2 hours to complete (some students will take less time, others more). Type up your answers on a Google doc and then you will turn it in on OnCampus the first week of classes.

**Political Maxims:**

1. It's not who you know; it's who you get to know.
2. All politics is local.
3. It's better to receive than to give.
4. Dance with the one that brung ya.
5. Keep your enemies in front of you.
6. Don't get mad; don't get even; get ahead.
7. Leave no shot unanswered.
8. Only talk when it improves the silence.
9. Always concede on principle.
10. Hang a lantern on your problem.
11. Spin
12. The press is the enemy.
13. The reputation of power
14. Positioning

**Part A:** Explain what the maxim means as it relates to American government and politics.

**Part B:** Describe at least one specific example used in *Hardball* and explain how it demonstrates the maxim.

## **Part II – Current Events**

*Purpose:* Government and politics are constantly evolving entities. Because of this, scholars of government and politics must follow current events and determine how they are impacted, and impacting, the political world. This assignment will help you to follow current events, so that when school begins in the fall, you are relatively up-to-date on current happenings and how they might impact government and politics. My hope is that you will follow the news closely. Having a good general knowledge of current political events will help you understand the material we will cover in this course.

*Essential Understandings:*

- Current events have a reciprocal impact on government and politics; what has happened impacts what happens now, and what happens now impacts what will happen in the future.
- Analyzing current events is essential for understanding government and politics.

*Directions:*

Collect six separate news articles, not videos. Accompanying each article, you must write a paragraph summary of the article and include the link to the source. Also give an indication of whether you think your source has a bias or not. See the information below to help with this.

One of the things to consider following the news is that media sources may have a bias. Review the link below to gain some understanding of the bias of different news sources. It may be interesting for you to follow an issue by looking at sources with a variety of perspectives.

- AllSides Media Bias Ratings- Online sources only.  
<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-ratings>

1 article should be related to the Supreme Court

1 article should be related to the Presidency

1 article should be related to the Congress

1 article should be related to civil rights/liberties

2 articles can be of any topic of your choice related to government

**Note:** Some articles may fall into more than one of these categories, such as an article on a Supreme Court decision dealing with civil rights. However, you may not use such articles twice. You must have separate articles for each category.

Type up your answers on a Google doc and then you will turn it in on OnCampus the first week of classes.

### **Part III – *The Federalist Papers***

When you take the AP exam, you are required to know the following lists of foundational documents and Supreme Court cases. I would like for you to read *The Federalist Papers* numbers 51 and 10. As you may remember from U.S. History, *The Federalist Papers* were written as articles and essays by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay in order to convince people to support the new government formed by the Constitution which had a far stronger central government. When you first read these documents, the language may be a little confusing. I would recommend reading the documents through several times. I have also provided questions below for each document to guide you. I will grade the questions below as a homework assignment, giving a grade for completion. Type up your answers on a Google doc and then you will turn it in on OnCampus the first week of classes. You will not be quizzed on this material until we have gone over it and answered any questions you may have.

***Federalist Paper # 51*** outlines the use of balance of powers and checks and balances, examines human nature, and the benefits of a federal system of government.

*Federalist No. 51*

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-51/>

Questions for *Federalist No. 51*.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/15-XmlMxzjffvmg0bRGLX6q1kL8Qeraty4\\_7v-9rxtRU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15-XmlMxzjffvmg0bRGLX6q1kL8Qeraty4_7v-9rxtRU/edit)

***Federalist Paper # 10*** defends a republican form of government, arguing that it will be responsive to the will of the people because no one faction will be able to control the government, examines the problem of majority rule and minority rights, and argues that the size of our country and its diversity will work to prevent tyrannical government.

*Federalist No. 10*

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-10/>

Questions for *Federalist No. 10*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Bf2HokqDtM2YkQu4We2GEWPOhasqr1NNiXzVbvYDY-o/edit>

**If you are interested and want to work ahead**, you can read any of the following documents or look up information on the following Supreme Court cases. I would recommend looking at the Oyez website for a good introduction to court cases. <https://www.oyez.org/>

Foundational Documents (DOCUMENTS YOU MUST KNOW WELL FOR THE EXAM)

*Federalist No. 10* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-10/>

*Brutus No. 1* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/brutus-i/>

*The Declaration of Independence* <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs>

*The Articles of Confederation* <http://www.ushistory.org/documents/confederation.htm>

*The Constitution of the United States* ( including the Bill of Rights and following Amendments)

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

*Federalist No. 51* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-51/>

*Letter from a Birmingham Jail* [http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter\\_Birmingham\\_Jail.pdf](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf)

*Federalist No. 70* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-70/>

*Federalist No. 78* <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/federalist-no-78/>

Required Supreme Court Cases (CASES YOU MUST KNOW WELL FOR THE EXAM)

1. *Marbury v. Madison*, 1803
2. *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 1819
3. *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954
4. *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 1963
5. *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 1969
6. *Roe v. Wade*, 1973
7. *United States v. Lopez*, 1995
8. *Baker v. Carr*, 1961
9. *Engel v. Vitale*, 1962
10. *New York Times Company v. U.S.*, 1971

11. *Schenck v. United States*, 1919
12. *McDonald v. Chicago*, 2010
13. *Shaw v. Reno*, 1993
14. *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 1972
15. *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (FEC), 2010

Essential Supreme Court Cases (CASES YOU MUST KNOW WELL FOR THE EXAM)

1. *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896
2. *Gitlow v. New York*, 1925
3. *Mapp v. Ohio*, 1961
4. *Miranda v. Arizona*, 1966
5. *Heart of the Atlanta Motel v. U.S.*, 1964
6. *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, 1978
7. *Texas v. Johnson*, 1989
8. *Buckley v. Valeo*, 1976
9. *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 1964
10. *Miller v. California*, 1973
11. *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 1824
12. *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, 1973
13. *U.S. v. Nixon*, 1974
14. *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967
15. *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 1965

**Textbook for this year.**

We will use the same textbook that I used last year, *American Government: Stories of a Nation* by Scott F. Abernathy and Karen Waples by Bedford, Freeman and Worth.

**Summer Support**

If you have any questions about your work this summer, please do not hesitate to contact me via teams.