Grading for this assignment will be based on answer quality, logic / organization of the paper, and language and writing skills, using the following rubric.

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| **Points: 200** | **Assignment 1: Politics** – **Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow** | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Unacceptable**  **Below 60% F** | **Meets Minimum Expectations**  **60-69% D** | **Fair**  **70-79% C** | **Proficient**  **80-89% B** | **Exemplary**  **90-100% A** |
| 1. Discuss either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today.  Weight: 25% | Did not submit or incompletely discussed either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today. | Insufficiently discussed either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today. | Partially discussed either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today. | Satisfactorily discussed either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today. | Thoroughly discussed either two (2) civil liberties or two (2) civil rights events (past or current) that influence social responsibility in the American government today. |
| 2. Discuss two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. Provide examples to support your answer. Weight: 25% | Did not submit or discuss two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. | Insufficiently discussed two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. | Partially discussed two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. | Satisfactorily discussed two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. | Thoroughly discussed two (2) media events (past or present) that have positively and negatively influenced public opinion of one government agency. |
| 3. Discuss two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people.  Weight: 25% | Did not submit or incompletely discussed two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people. | Insufficiently discussed two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people. | Partially discussed two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people. | Satisfactorily discussed two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people. | Thoroughly discussed two (2) differences between the Republican and Democratic parties that may have an ethical impact on the American people. |
| 4. Writing / Support for ideas.  Weight: 8% | Never uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Rarely uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Partially uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Mostly uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Consistently uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. |
| 5. Writing / Grammar and mechanics.  Weight: 5% | Serious and persistent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Partially free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Mostly free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. |
| 6. Writing and Information Literacy / Integration and Crediting of Sources.  Weight: 7% | Serious errors in the integration of sources, such as intentional or accidental plagiarism, or failure to use in-text citations. | Sources are rarely integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | Sources are partially integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | Sources are mostly integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | Sources are consistently integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. |
| 7. Information Literacy / Research.  Weight: 5% | Quantity and/or quality of sources are unacceptable. | Too few references and/or references are of poor quality. | Number of sources is less than expected and/or the quality of sources is questionable. | Number of sources is sufficient and the quality of sources is mostly good. | Number of sources is sufficient and the quality of sources is good. |

Grading for this assignment will be based on answer quality, logic / organization of the paper, and language and writing skills, using the following rubric.

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| **Points: 225** | **Assignment 2: It May Not Work in Politics** | | | | | | |
| **Criteria** | **Unacceptable**  **Below 60% F** | **Meets Minimum Expectations**  **60-69% D** | | **Fair**  **70-79% C** | | **Proficient**  **80-89% B** | **Exemplary**  **90-100% A** |
| 1. Identify one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties.  Weight: 20% | Did not submit or incompletely identified one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties. | Insufficiently identified one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties. | | Partially identified one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties. | | Satisfactorily identified one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties. | Thoroughly identified one (1) member of Congress who has been charged with ethics violations. Briefly discuss the reason for the charges and provide two (2) reasons why you agree or disagree with the verdict and any penalties. |
| 2. Discuss two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election.  Weight: 20% | Did not submit or incompletely discussed two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election. | Insufficiently discussed two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election. | | Partially discussed two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election. | | Satisfactorily discussed two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election. | Thoroughly discussed two (2) reasons why a Third Party candidate has never been successful in the presidential election. |
| 3. Identify one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Analyze the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Determine whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue.  Weight: 20% | Did not submit or incompletely identified one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Did not submit or incompletely analyzed the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Did not submit or incompletely determined whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue. | Insufficiently identified one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Insufficiently analyzed the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Insufficiently determined whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue. | | Partially identified one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Partially analyzed the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Partially determined whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue. | | Satisfactorily identified one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Satisfactorily analyzed the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Satisfactorily determined whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue. | Thoroughly identified one (1) current issue facing the United States today. Thoroughly analyzed the respective roles of federal and state authorities in addressing the issue. Thoroughly determined whether the U.S. Constitution constrains the federal and state responses to the issue. |
| 4. Writing / Support for Ideas.  Weight: 15% | Never uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | | Rarely uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | | Partially uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Mostly uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. | Consistently uses reasons and evidence that logically support ideas. |
| 5. Writing / Grammar and Mechanics.  Weight: 5% | Serious and persistent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | | Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | | Partially free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Mostly free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. | Free of errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. |
| 6. Writing and Information Literacy / Integration and Crediting of Sources.  Weight: 15% | Serious errors in the integration of sources, such as intentional or accidental plagiarism, or failure to use in-text citations. | | Sources are rarely integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | | Sources are partially integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | Sources are mostly integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. | Sources are consistently integrated using effective techniques of quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing, using in-text citations. |
| 7. Information Literacy / Research.  Weight: 5% | Quantity and/or quality of sources are unacceptable. | | Too few references and/or references are of poor quality. | | Number of sources is less than expected and/or the quality of sources is questionable. | Number of sources is sufficient and the quality of sources is mostly good. | Number of sources is sufficient and the quality of sources is good. |