

American Government and Politics

Porterville College

POLS P101


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Spring 2012
559-791-2342

Sec. 1, MW 2:25; Sec. 2, TR 9:35; and Sec. 3, TR 12:50; all in SM 102

Office Hours in SM 113D

Spring 2012	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		11:05-12:00		11:05-12:00	
PM	1:15-2:10		1:15-2:10 & 4:20-5:20		

 If you need special accommodations for a disability, please contact me or contact the campus Disability Resource Center (AC 116, 559-791-2215) so that we may help you.

TEXT, OTHER READINGS, & REQUIRED MATERIALS

REQUIRED: Turner, Stephenson, Bresler, Friedrich, & Karlesky. *Introduction to American Government*, 6th edition. BVT Publishing: Redding, CA, 2011

Van Vechten, Renée. *California Politics: A Primer*, (1st or 2nd Ed.) CQ Press: Washington, DC, 2011 or 2012

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*, any edition will do.

iClicker, an electronic student feedback and remote polling device. This device will also need 3 AAA batteries. You will be responsible to bring it to class and to keep it ready with good batteries.

Other: Additional readings from Internet sources will be required. In some cases specific sites will be required, and in some cases students will be responsible to search out relevant material on their own. Occasionally I will post extra reading assignments or announcements for class on a web page. I will also post announcements of general interest to campus students there. Please check it Daily, Monday through Thursday. Check the general class announcement page, and then be sure to link to the “American Government” link for class specific announcements. You will also be able to find the power point slides used in class. The web address is: <http://www.portervillecollege.edu/jkeele>. You will find the “Class Announcement” link which will take you to the announcements.

Newspaper: Read the LA Times, online edition (www.latimes.com) (political coverage on Front Page, Nation, and California sections – headlines and first 4 paragraphs of politically relevant articles). We will often discuss contemporary topics in national, state or local politics as they occur or as they relate to the topics in the text. Occasional pop quizzes on current events will test your newspaper reading.

Recommended: The web Student Tutorial for American Government section of the BVT Publishing web page may be helpful. WWW.BVTPublishing.com

Course Description: This course is an introduction to American Government. It incorporates a comprehensive survey of the dynamics of the American political process at the federal and state level. This course satisfies the educational code requirement in the U.S. Constitution and state and local government of California.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the completion of this course the student should be able to:

- 1: Identify and analyze the theory and principles of democratic government, and of the United States Constitution.
- 2: Identify and explain the organization, operation and interrelationships of the three branches of the federal government.
- 3: Compare and contrast the functions, powers and policies of federal, state, and local governments
- 4: Identify and evaluate the basic rights, privileges and obligations of each U.S. citizen.
- 5: Recognize and explain the role of political parties, campaigns, nominations, interest groups, and media in the American political system.

Requirements:

Internet access is **required** for this course. Access is available to all PC students in on-campus computer labs.

Reading: All assigned reading is required. Text reading is due before class on the assigned date. Also, students are required to read political coverage in the LA Times as above.

Attendance & Participation: Attendance and punctuality are required. I may drop you from the class after 3 absences. You are responsible for all material presented or discussed in class, whether you are there or not. Courtesy, active listening, and participation will make this course a more enjoyable and productive experience for you and for others. Please plan to dedicate your full attention to the discussion and activities of class. Texting, side conversations, reading during lecture/discussion, and dozing are all forms of rudeness. These and other forms of rudeness distract from your own learning and disrupt others. Please plan to refrain from distracting behavior. We will periodically conduct polls or other spontaneous questions using the **iClicker**. Your participation is being recorded and will contribute to the participation component of your score. For each class period you will get “full participation” credit if you participate in all or all but one of the questions asked that day. If you fail to participate in two or more questions in a day you will not receive participation credit for that day.

Pop Quizzes: Several pop quizzes will be given to check on reading and comprehension. **Text and Newspaper** reading questions will appear, as will **lecture and web page** assignments. These will be interspersed throughout the class on a daily basis and will be done using the **iClicker**. If you do not buy the iClicker, if you forget your iClicker, or if you bring your iClicker with dead batteries, the you simply cannot take the quiz or quizzes that day and forfeit those points. Quiz points generally cannot be made up; please plan and come to class prepared. In rare circumstances *some* quiz points may be made up but the student needs to make arrangements in advance where possible and must contact me to resolve the issue immediately in case of an unexpected need.

Web Assignments: Periodically I will post *ad hoc* assignments on the web page. They will be relatively minor and may include reading an article or responding to a question. They will have a deadline and must be completed and submitted by that date if you want the points.

Politics in the News 250 word response: **BY the class date noted in the schedule below you must submit a 200 to 300 word essay assessing the political implications of a newspaper article.** The essay must be typed, double-spaced and follow MLA style and citation format (or get advance approval for any other style). Proper citations, even of the article you are responding to, are ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED. The article must be current (no more than seven calendar days old) and a dated copy must either be printed from the web or clipped from any newspaper and **stapled** to your paper. This is a 25 point assignment and late papers are assessed a 10-point penalty per day. **In addition to the paper submitted in class, you must also submit this through Turnitin.com by the deadline. (an emailed copy of the paper in RTF or TEXT format MAY be sent IF turnitin is malfunctioning). See the last page for TURNITIN.COM instructions.**

Politics in the news Oral Presentations: **Every Class Day**, students must bring a copy of a *dated* clipping (or printout from the web) for that week (the articles must be current, within 4 calendar days) **Each student will be required to briefly present at least 1 of these articles to the class during the semester with 15 points assigned to the category of presentations. I will randomly pick the student/s to present each day.** Each time you are unprepared, or not present when your name is called you lose 5 points from the 15 possible. We will dedicate no more than 10 minutes per day on these discussion.

100 Point Paper: Students will write **one** required paper (900 to 1300 Words, see paper assignment requirements starting page 7 of this syllabus). *Failure earn at least a 70% score on this paper will result in failure in the class regardless of other points. Most students who submit a sub-standard paper will be given the opportunity to rewrite or fix their paper to pass the class, but no more than 70 points is possible on any rewritten or fixed paper. Plagiarized papers may not be made up or re-written.* The papers must be typed, double spaced, using MLA format (or get advance approval for any other style) and **must be thoroughly documented and cited**. Proper citations even of the novel, the class textbooks or class lectures, are absolutely required. The instructions and several prompts from which to choose begin on Page 7. **100 Points. Late Essays are penalized 10 points at 1 minute past the specified time on their due date in the schedule below and again for every additional 24 hours they are late – no excuses, no exceptions. It must also be submitted through turnitin.com BY THE DEADLINE (an emailed copy of the paper in RTF or TEXT format MAY be sent IF turnitin is malfunctioning). See instructions on the last page for Turnitin.com.**

Exams: Two exams will be given on the dates listed in the schedule below. The exam format will be partly multiple choice and partly short essay. No cell phones, no audio devices (mp3 players), and no leaving the class during the exam; if you answer a phone, are caught with an earpiece in your ear, or leave the class room you are done with the exam. It is the student's responsibility to arrange with me for alternative test arrangements at least ONE WEEK BEFORE the scheduled exam if there is some campus-approved necessity for an early exam. **Make up exams may be offered with a 20-point penalty, but only if taken before the next regular class meeting. The final exam is scheduled by the college; Please, do not plan on taking it early.** You may bring in one 4x6" note card when you take exams.

Honesty: I require honesty on iClicker participation, quizzes, tests, and assignments. Following Porterville College policy, if a student cheats on a test or assignment, or plagiarizes, I will give an "F" grade on that assignment and I will report the incident to the Vice President of Student Services. The student will have to meet with the Vice President to determine whether further disciplinary action is necessary. Students who cheat or plagiarize are NOT eligible for any extra credit points. Students caught trying to cheat with iClickers (whether trying to copy answers or trying to get participation/quiz points when you are not present) will automatically lose all participation points, all quiz points, all opportunities for extra credit or make-up. A second offense will result in being dropped from the course.

Grading Points of the assignments are as follows

??	Pop Quizzes, both iClicker and paper (1 to 20 points each; up to 200 points total.)
15	Politics in the News Oral Presentation/s (15 points)
25	Politics in the News 250 word response (25 point)
50	Participation (proportioned on iClicker participation rate)
100	Essay/Paper (70% or higher score absolutely <u>required to pass</u> the class)
100	Midterm Exam (<u>Required to pass</u> the class)
100	Final Exam (<u>Required to pass</u> the class)

We will probably have 350 to 550 points in the class by the end.

Grades are calculated on the following scale with percentages based on the points possible:

A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F below 60%

Extra Credit opportunities **MAY** be offered through the class announcement web page. Students are welcome to take advantage of any of these. However; effective **extra credit will be strictly limited to no more than 2% on the final grade in the course grade.**

Schedule

Schedule: Outline of Topics and Readings in sequence. All reading is due and considered testable on the Wednesday or Thursday of the week listed in the syllabus. Discussions of the topics will follow the reading due dates.

Government and Politics: The basics

Jan 16+ Week 1 Introduction/Overview

Outline expectations for this class: What is Politics? What is Authority? What is Government? What is Democracy? Why do I Care?

Assignments: Read: "Introduction" from the main text by Turner, *et al*, hereafter referred to as "**A.G.**"
Locate, purchase and register your iClicker.
Arrange Internet Access and check out the class web page.
Read the LA Times and get accustomed to reading the paper online.

Jan 23+ Week 2: Continue discussions from Week 1

A.G.: Ch. 1 The Constitution

Jan 30+ Week 3: The Constitution

The Constitution of the United States, in **A.G.** (appendix)

Federalist #10 and #51 from the Library of Congress Web Site:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

Feb. 1 or Feb 2 In Class: Politics in the News 250 word response Due Feb 1 or 2: BY the beginning of your class meeting, submit a 200 to 300 word essay assessing the political implications of a newspaper article. The essay must be typed, double-spaced and follow MLA style and citation format (or get advance approval for any other style). Proper citations, even of the article you are responding to, are ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED. The article must be current (no more than seven calendar days old) and a dated copy must either be printed from the web or clipped from any newspaper and **stapled** to your paper. This is a 25 point assignment and late papers are assessed a 10-point penalty per day. **In addition to the paper submitted in class, you must also submit this through Turnitin.com by the deadline. (an emailed copy of the paper in RTF or TEXT format MAY be sent IF turnitin is malfunctioning). See the last page for TURNITIN.COM instructions.**

Feb 6+ Week 4: Federalism

A.G.: Chapter 2 Federalism: States in the Union

Constitution: Article IV and Article VI, and Amendments 9, 10, and 14 (review)

Fahrenheit 451, to page 100 (beginning to read on Civil Rights)

Feb 13+ Week 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

A.G.: Chapter 3

Constitution: Amendments 1-10, 13-15, and 19 (review)

Fahrenheit 451, to end

Presidents Day Holiday: February 17 and 20 – No classes on either day.

Feb 20+ Week 6: Political Culture, Ideology, Public Opinion and Participation

A.G. Chapter 4, Ideologies

A.G. Chapter 5 Opinion and Political

Feb 27+ Week 7: Media
 A.G. Chapter 6 Politics and the Media

Mar 5 & 6 Catch-up or review

Mar 7 & 8 **MIDTERM EXAM: In Class**

Bring a Green Scantron® #882, You may bring in one 4x6" note card when you take the exam.

Mar 12+ Week 9: Political Parties and Elections
 A.G. Chapter 7 Political Parties
 A.G. Chapter 8 Campaigns and Elections

Mar 19+ Week 10: Congress
 A.G. Chapter 9 Congress
 Constitution: Article I (review)

Mar 26+ Week 11: Presidency
 A.G. Chapter 10 The Presidency
 Constitution: Article II

SPRING BREAK: April 1-7.

Apr 9+ Week 12: Judiciary
 A.G. Chapter 12 The Supreme Court and the American Judiciary
 Constitution: Article III

April 18 for MW Class & April 19 for TR Class: 100 Point Paper DUE: at the VERY BEGINNING OF YOUR CLASS, (They are late at 1 minute past the class start time). **Remember that your name goes ONLY on the cover sheet and it is stapled on as the last page. 10 POINT PENALTY IF YOUR NAME IS ON THE FRONT PAGE OR IN A HEADER OR FOOTER.** Do not forget to submit a copy to Turnitin.com **ONTIME** and keep a copy for yourself.

Apr 16+ Week 13: **California Government, Local Government**

Start early on this section's reading, you will need to do some individual research and learn answers to the questions listed below. *Bring your notes with you to class.*

Van Vechten, *California Politics*. Read the whole book, it isn't very long.

Prepare for a Quiz on Apr 24-24: Internet/take-home assignment: Find out who represents you in the following offices: US Senate, US House of Representatives, California Governor, California State Senate, California State Assembly, County Board of Supervisors, Mayor, City Council, High School Board of Trustees. This is a research project; you find the information whether on the internet, in the newspaper, from the relevant offices or whatever. You can do it! **Open-note Quiz:** who represents you in state, local, and national government? Find out and bring your lists with you for an open note quiz.

Apr 23+

Weeks 14-15: **Social Movements** and Wrap-up

DO NOT MISS LECTURE THIS WEEK!!! – There is no book to fall back on. You can read Chapters 1 and 2 of my dissertation (about 140 pages posted on my web page) to glean the theory if you miss class. It is posted on my web page at <http://www.portervillecollege.edu/jkeele/Jeff%20Keele%20Dissertation%20official.pdf>

This last section's readings are all on your own, you find it, you read it, and then tell us about it.

Readings: Choose a **current political issue** (*not an historical one*) that interests you and that has some organized or grass roots social movement to promote one side or the other or both. Learn from newspaper, ***Internet***, or library resources how this issue is defined at least by one movement organization. How are proponents of one side or the other striving to achieve their goals? How do they get attention? What power do they try to exercise? What sort of organization and tactics are they using? Is the movement part of the American democratic process, or is it destructive of our peaceful democracy? **Be prepared to share and discuss the issue and movement in class.**

Apr 30 / May 1: Open-note quiz: Come prepared to answer some theory-driven questions about your social movement, and to provide a citation to where you gathered the information.

Some suggestions of issues and movements you may find interesting: (but feel free to pick another issue that interests you)

Organizations: (you find out the relevant issue) Earth First, Sierra Club, Green Peace, NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, Operation Rescue, National Organization of Women, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, FairVote.org,

Issues: (you find the relevant organizations) Victims rights, consumer safety, world trading issues, sexual orientation politics, farm worker's rights, agricultural water use, homelessness, housing, AIDS, peace and anti-war

EXTRA CREDIT ESSAYS are due by 11:59 PM on Friday, May 4. Extra credit essays are to be **submitted through turnitin.com only** and are not accepted late under any circumstances. Extra credit essays may be written only on Social Movements or on a visit to a Presidential Library; no other questions or topics are accepted.

FINAL EXAM: MW 2:35 Class → Monday, May 7 at 3:00 PM
TR: 9:34 Class → Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 AM
TR: 12:50 Class → Tuesday, May 8 at 12:30 PM

The exam will be in class. You will need a Green Scantron 882
You *may* use a 4"X6" note card.

*Please, don't even ask about taking the final early.
Be sure to show up on time to the final exam.*

100 POINT PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Papers need to be typed, double-spaced in a **12-pitch** font with **1-inch margins**. Align your paper to the LEFT and **DO NOT "justify"** the paper. **Number the pages and staple. Please do not put them in any special binding.** Put your name **only on a final title page that is the last page in your document (page 5)**. Do not put your name in a header or footer. This helps me grade the papers anonymously. You will be **penalized 10 points** if your name shows up where it shouldn't. **The total paper, including works cited and title page must be between 900 and 1300 words. Less than 900 words =F, over 1300 words = 10 point penalty.** Papers must be turned in on or before the due date, *late papers are penalized 10 points at 1 minute past the specified time and 10 points more for each 24 hours they are late.*

You **must** also submit an **electronic copy** to turnitin.com. Instructions are on page 10. (Unfortunately, plagiarism is often a problem, so I require all students to submit their essays to turnitin.com to compare against a database and thus catch copied or plagiarized work).

The papers will be graded mostly on: **clarity** (can I understand you?), **content** (are you talking about the right issue and answering the question?), **completeness** (are you thorough and do you include all major arguments?), and **persuasiveness** (are you convincing?). Note that these questions **DO NOT ASK YOU TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT**; rather, they ask you to use the book as a beginning point to discuss important governmental and constitutional issues. The essay will also be graded on proper format, including ***grammar, spelling, punctuation, word choice*** and ***citations***. A poorly presented idea loses much of its persuasive power, and part of a college education in the United States is learning to present ideas in writing in English. **I will read and give you suggestions on ONE (but only one) preliminary draft of your paper ONLY IF you EMAIL it to me at least two school days before it is due.**

Citations and a Works Cited page are CRUCIAL. A paper that does not give proper citations is a plagiarized paper and will result in failing the assignment. **A plagiarized paper cannot be fixed or rewritten for credit in this class,** so plagiarism on this paper will result in failing the whole class, because a C in this paper is required to pass. Give a citation when you paraphrase someone else's idea – ALWAYS!!! If more than 3 words are copied in order from any source, they MUST be in quotation marks and have a citation. Most students will use MLA style; if you do, I ask for some minor modifications: 1: long quotes (more than 2 lines of text) must be indented and SINGLE SPACED in papers for me; 2: **DO NOT include your name in a header or footer.** (If you are accustomed to a different style manual, such as APA, Turabian, or Chicago, you may use it, but please speak with me about it in advance.)

You should always give proper credit to the sources of your information and ideas. If you quote something directly (more than 3 words together), put it in quotation marks (" ") and give a citation to the source. If you give information that is not general knowledge, make a citation explaining where it comes from. If you paraphrase an idea that you got from someone else, give that person credit through a citation. **ALL IDEAS you get from somewhere other than your own creative genius should be cited,** even material from the lecture, the class text books, or the novel you are responding to. This is a question of honesty and integrity. **Failing to give proper credit to the sources of your ideas and information is called plagiarism, and it will result in failing the assignment with no possibility of making it up.** Porterville College policy also requires that I report the plagiarism to the Dean. The student then must meet with the Dean where further disciplinary action may be taken..

One key for writing a solid essay of this brief length is to be sure to include a direct, clear **THESIS STATEMENT** in the first paragraph. You do not have space to waste on lengthy background or introductions.



I personally HATE seeing the word “you” in any of its forms in a formal essay. The second-person, personal pronoun has NO PLACE in a formal essay. Avoid it; it will cost points if it shows up in an essay.

Contractions also should be avoided in a formal essay.



Citations to Wikipedia or to Sparks Notes or any other form of summary or abridgements of the novels are unacceptable. Quotes from such sources that are not cited will absolutely be treated as unquestionable plagiarism and will be dealt with unmercifully.

Turn in all essays in class or slide them under my office door by the specified time. Submit it to TURNITIN.COM by the deadline. Keep copies for yourself too. Late essays are penalized even if your excuse is really good.

QUESTIONS FOR THE 100 POINT PAPER: Any ONE of the following prompts (except the “extra credit” prompts) may be used for your paper. **PLEASE identify the prompt in your paper by putting the letter and title of the question on the top of page 1.**

A) Supreme Court: Gideon’s Trumpet

Read the book *Gideon’s Trumpet* by Anthony Lewis. Referring to what you learned both in class and in the novel, write an essay about the **role of the Supreme Court in interpreting or re-interpreting the Constitution**. If you chose this issue, you would focus on how an issue comes before the court, how the court gathers information, what basis the Justices make their ruling on, and how their ruling gets applied after they make it, etc. This is not a “book report.” (Note: The book is available from Amazon.com, and one or two are available at the PC Library.)

B) Federalism: Freedom Road

Read the novel, *Freedom Road*, by Howard Fast. Write an essay that conforms to the requirements for this class and addresses either of the following topics. (Realize that this is a novel. It is historical fiction and while it illustrates issues and problems of the reconstruction era, it is not actual history). What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of centralized (unitary) government versus decentralized (federal) government as illustrated in this novel? What do you learn about the changing balance between federal and state power through the reconstruction years after the Civil War covered in this novel? Is the issue of states’ rights versus federal power resolved now, or is it still a relevant political debate with significant relevance to our liberty? This is not a “book report.” (Note: This novel is available through Amazon.com and there may be a copy of it at the public library.)

Local Government: NOTE: Both of the next two options require you to interact with community leaders. Please remember to be respectful and conduct yourself with dignity. You are a student, NOT an “in-your-face,” investigative reporter.

C) Local Government: Meeting

Attend a meeting of the City Council, County Board of Supervisors, School Board, or the CA State Legislature. Write a paper explaining how this body impacts life in your county. You should also carefully address at least 3 of the following questions: Where does it get its authority? How is it selected? How is it organized? How open is the body to input from the community? Who holds this body accountable and how? This question will require some research beyond just attending the meeting. (This option may be hard because the paper is due before we deal with local government in class. You **MUST** read the Van Vechten book on California **BEFORE** you write this essay.) **Some research BEYOND the interview is a requirement for this topic.**

D) Local Government: Interview

Make an appointment and visit with a **state or local level, ELECTED public official**. (**Get professor's approval first – no credit if it is not pre-approved – you may NOT interview a relative for this assignment**) Discuss that official's responsibilities and powers with her/him. Learn how he/she gained the position and whom she/he must account to. Ask the official what the best way that you as a private citizen can insure that your perspective is known and taken into account when decisions are made in her/his office? Write a paper outlining the duties and powers of the position and your analysis of how democratic and accountable to public scrutiny that position is. REMEMBER: Analyze the position, not the person who holds the position. This question will require some research beyond just your interview. (This option may be hard because the paper is due before we deal with local government in class. You MUST read the Van Vechten book on California BEFORE you write this essay.) To repeat: **research BEYOND the interview is a requirement for this topic**.

~~E) Poll Worker ****My favorite, and a favorite of former students**** This one is only available to US Citizens who are California residents, and registered voters if over 18.~~

~~Take the Poll Worker Training (schedules to be announced) and then work at least four hours as a Poll Worker in the General Election on November 2. Write an essay explaining what you learned. Explain the rules by which you were limited and guided. What role do citizen volunteers play in voting? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the registration and voting system you participated in? If you choose to volunteer on Election Day, you will definitely need advanced training and certification. See me to schedule your training as a poll worker; there may be a limited number of spots for this opportunity, so students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.~~

F) Racial Politics: Freedom Road

Read the novel, *Freedom Road*, by Howard Fast write an essay that conforms to the requirements for this class and addresses following topic. (Realize that this is a novel. It is historical fiction and while it illustrates issues and problems of the reconstruction era, it is not actual history). Compare the accomplishments of Gideon Jackson and his contemporaries as presented in this historical fiction with the gains made by minorities in the US since 1964. Are the gains in civil rights over the past 35 years as vulnerable as were the advancement of liberated slaves in the reconstruction period that this novel covers? Why? **This essay will require some historical research about both the reconstruction period and the Civil rights laws of the 1960s**. This is not a "book report." (Note: This book is available from Amazon.com and a copy or two are available at the PC Library.)

G) Equal Justice: Gideon's Trumpet

Read the book: "GIDEON'S TRUMPET." Referring to what you learned both in class and in the novel, write an essay about a defendant's right to have an attorney. If you choose this issue you should deal with the constitutional basis for the court's decision and its choice not to follow established precedent, the logical basis for the decision, the question of federalism involved in this case, the role of attorneys in our adversarial court system, etc. This is NOT a "book report" but should incorporate what you learned in the book. (Note: The book is available from Amazon.com, and a copy or two are available at the PC Library.)

H) Constitutional Rights: *The Trial*

Read the novel, *The Trial*, by Franz Kafka. Write an essay that conforms to the standards for this class. This novel emphasizes the importance of specific rights when a person is accused of a trial. In your essay, comment on the constitutional rights guaranteed under the US Constitution that were absent in the novel. How do those rights help guarantee a free and democratic society? Are those rights guaranteed absolutely in today's America – what implications does your answer have for the security of democracy here? Note that this is NOT a "book report."

I) Constitutional rights: 1984

Read the novel, 1984, by George Orwell. Write an essay that conforms to the standards for this class. This novel emphasizes the importance of specific rights guaranteed in our constitution. In your essay, comment on the constitutional rights guaranteed under the US Constitution that were absent in the novel. How do those rights help guarantee a free and democratic society? Be sure to deal specifically with the Constitution and include some assessment of how well those Constitutional rights are currently protected in the practices of the US Government. Note that this is NOT a "book report."

J) Judicial System and Due Process: *A Tale of Two Cities*

Read Charles Dickens' classic novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. Write a paper conforming to the assignment standards in which you compare and contrast the court system (either the English or the French court) as presented in the novel with the American court system. Be sure you include in your paper a discussion of core Constitutional issues in our court system that distinguish it from the court system and trial in the book. Note that this is NOT a "book report."

Extra Credit Paper: You **MAY CHOOSE** to write **ONE** of the following essays for extra credit as mentioned above -- **DUE through turnitin.com by 11:59 PM on May 4.** Total possible points are 10 for an A and 5 for a B. **Late papers are penalized 10 points.** Please note, my offer to proofread a draft essay does not apply to extra credit essays, but I will gladly discuss your ideas and questions if you wish. Extra credit essays must meet the same standard as the 100 point essays with 900-1300 words and professional presentation.

EXTRA CREDIT ONLY: Social Movements

Write an essay about the social movement or issue that you choose to research for our class discussion in week 16 of the syllabus. You will have learned a great deal about the issue or movement from your research. In class, we will talk about general concepts and theory relating to social movements and extra-institutional politics. Write an essay in which you **analyze your social movement or issue in light of the theoretical discussion in class.** Be sure you use the concepts and terms introduced in class. Write a 900-1300 word paper conforming to the standards the 100 point essays in this syllabus and submit it through **TURNITIN.COM** only.

EXTRA CREDIT ONLY: Presidential Library:

Visit the Reagan or the Nixon Presidential Library in the LA Area – find web links on my Home Page. Take a picture of yourself there, or bring back your receipt for proof of your visit. Based on a combination of your visit and some independent research, write a 900-1300 word paper conforming to the standards the 100 point essays in this syllabus. Evaluate the contributions made by the president whose library you chose to visit. What strengths did he bring to office, what challenges did he face, what were his shortcomings? Submit this through **TURNITIN.COM** only.

Register your iClicker: Do it before the 2nd week of class!

- To register your iClicker:
- Go to <http://www.iclicker.com> and follow the instructions. OR
- Read and follow the instructions printed on the back of your iClicker.
- Use the same first and last name you used to register for classes at PC.
- Use your PC Student ID Number as your “Student ID.” Be sure to use the whole number including the @ and all of the zeros. For example: @00654321. Do not abbreviate. Be sure to use all numbers (not the letter O for zero).
- The “Remote ID” is a code number printed on the back of YOUR PERSONAL iClicker.

Using Turnitin.com

This online source checks your paper for plagiarism, which is very helpful to instructors. It is very simple to use:

- Go to www.turnitin.com
 - If you already have an account, simply log on and follow the instructions to add a class using the Class ID and password below.
- If you do not already have a turnitin.com account, follow the instructions for new users on the turnitin.com web page.
- Follow the instructions to create a user
 - Enter your e-mail address
 - Create a password for yourself
 - Enter your first and last name (*please use your name as it is on my role*)
- **The ID for this class is: 4719109**
- **The password is: democracy** (this is case sensitive, so Capitalize the name)

- When its s time to submit assignments:
- Log in to Turnitin.com.
- Click on the name of the class.
- Click on “submit” with the square paper icon.
- Follow the upload instructions for the first assignment.
 - (Note that **THH cannot process documents uploaded in WPS format from MS Works** – if you are using Works, you will need to save your documents as RTF files or simply use the cut and paste option when uploading.)
- For all subsequent assignments, simply log in and pick the correct assignment to upload.