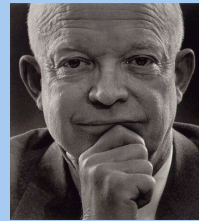
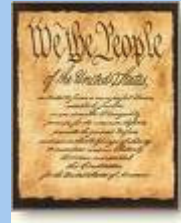
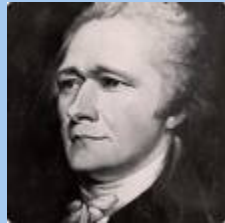
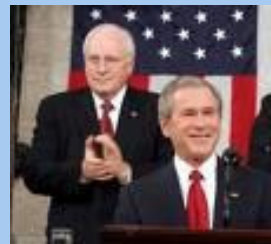


HISTORY of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

Mr. Blanchet
d_blanchet@sharon.k12.ma.us

Room 208
(DESK IN 607)





TERM 1 ASSIGNMENTS

HW DUE 9/7

Define political terms on class handout

(front half of class- define odd # terms, back half of class- define even # terms)

CLASSWORK

PART I:

Now that you've labeled and colored in a 2008 electoral map of the United States, use the demographic maps in the powerpoint (click on link below) to answer the following questions:

[Demographic Maps2011.ppt](#)

- 1) Why might the electoral map with shades of blue, red and purple be a more accurate reflection of the political views of the American people than the regular red and blue electoral map?
- 2) What major trends or patterns do you see in the historical animations of the electoral map? Draw some conclusions and summarize how American voting has changed over the course of the 20th century, especially.
- 2) How do the cartograms of the United States electoral map affect your view of how the country might be characterized politically? Do you feel the cartogram is a more or less accurate reflection of the nation's political makeup than the standard Electoral map? Why?
- 3) Compare your 2008 electoral map to the demographic maps in the powerpoint. What conclusions can you draw about a person's political views according to their:

- race/ethnicity
- level of income
- age
- religion

PART II:

Take the Political Spectrum Quiz online. [Click here](#)

Print out or write down your results and answer the following questions:

- 1) Are you surprised in any way by the results? Do you feel that the results are accurate?
- 2) Which questions were most confusing or most difficult to answer? Why?
- 3) Do your results on this quiz match the conclusions you drew after reading the liberal/conservative views packet? If not, how do they differ?

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY - Due no later than Wednesday 9/14

Watch either the Republican Presidential Candidates' Debate on Wed. 9/7 (8pm - MSNBC) or President Obama's address to congress on Jobs and the Economy on Thursday 9/8 (7pm, all major networks and Cable News networks)

After viewing one of these, answer the corresponding questions below:

FOR THE REPUBLICAN DEBATE

[click here](#) to watch video overview

- 1) Which candidate has views that most closely represent your own? Give specific examples.
- 2) Which candidate seemed most confident and/or charismatic?
- 3) Were there any memorable moments (funny, awkward or tense exchanges, slip-ups or gaffes, historical or factual inaccuracies, etc.) that stood out?
- 4) Which candidate do you think proposed the most specific solutions? Give examples.
- 5) Which candidate did you think "won" the debate? Why? If this candidate ran against President Obama, who do you think would win? Why? If you could vote, would you vote for the Republican candidate or President Obama? Why?

FOR OBAMA'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

[click here](#) to watch video overview

- 1) What was the overall tone of the President's speech? What metaphors or examples did he use to try to illustrate his points?

2) What specific actions, plans, or policies did President Obama propose to deal with the unemployment problem and the ongoing economic slump?

3) How did the joint session of congress respond to the President's words? Did you notice any signs of partisanship (Republicans booing, Democrats cheering, etc.)? Did you notice any bi-partisan agreement - statements that congresspeople on both sides of the aisle applauded?

4) How optimistic are you that the President's plan will be supported by congress? How optimistic are you that, even if passed, these plans will solve our economic problems?

5) Do a quick search online to see how the public and members of congress responded to the speech. Who are the critics and what are their main criticisms? Who seems most supportive?

HW DUE MONDAY 9/19

Assignment #1 on Unit Guide - take notes on blank timeline as you read (provide brief definitions/descriptions of the events)

HW DUE WEDNESDAY 9/21

Assignment #2 on Unit Guide - take notes on blank timeline as you read (provide brief definitions/descriptions of the events)

HW DUE FRIDAY 9/23

Assignment #3 on Unit Guide

QUEST ON COLONIAL AMERICA - TUESDAY 9/27

HW DUE WEDNESDAY 10/12

Assignment #3 on Unit Guide

HW DUE FRIDAY 10/14

Read Article I of the Constitution in preparation for our class PowerPoint presentation and write down any questions you have about it.

ANNOTATED CONSTITUTION

Click the link below to read detailed explanations of the various powers and duties of the government as outlined by the Constitution

<http://www.america.gov/st/usg-english/2008/April/20080416203407eaifas0.6335565.html>

HW DUE MONDAY 10/17

Read Articles II and III of the Constitution (it may help to read the annotated version rather than the pocket version) and write down any questions you have

CONSTITUTION QUIZ - MONDAY 10/24

Review key terms and study questions on unit guide

HW DUE TUESDAY 10/25

Read the Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10 of the Constitution) and write down any questions you have

BILL OF RIGHTS RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT - DUE WED. NOV 2nd

Research one clause of the First Amendment and complete a research outline for an essay addressing the following question:

Have Supreme Court interpretations of the First Amendment gone too far in limiting our fundamental rights? Why or why not?

Click link below to download assignment instructions

[BILL OF RIGHTS RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT.doc](#)

Click link below to download blank research outline document

[Phase1ResearchOutline.doc](#)

Other resources that may be helpful to you:

The Bill of Rights Foundation - Categorized database of Supreme Court case summaries (you can't cite these as your evidence, but they can help steer you towards the cases that you'll use)

<http://www.billofrightsinsitute.org/page.aspx?pid=469>

Oyez Online Supreme Court Archive - has full text of landmark supreme court cases as well as case summaries (you may cite these resources)

<http://www.oyez.org>

EasyBib - allows you to plug in source information, creating the proper MLA citation, which can be copied and pasted into your works cited page.

www.easybib.com

HW - DUE WEDNESDAY 11/9

THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT

"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted"

1) Read the pro and con arguments at the link below and write down the 3 points/facts /arguments that most reflect your views on the death penalty.

<http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=002000>

2) Skim the data at the link below and answer the question: *Are there any details on this list that would lead you to believe that the death penalty could be considered "Cruel and Unusual" punishment and should therefore be banned by the 8th Amendment?*

<http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=004087>

3) Now watch the video and read the article at the link below and write a brief response. Does the Troy Davis case affect your views on the death penalty? How?

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/troy-davis-executed-stay-denied-supreme-court/story?id=14571862>

OPEN NOTES IN-CLASS ESSAY PROMPT ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS - WEDNESDAY 11/9

DEBT AND DEFICIT RESOURCES

Mortgage and Loan Calculator

<http://www.mlcalc.com/>

US Debt Clock

<http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

The Debt Ceiling Explained

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzcCoyJBMSU>

FY 2011 Mandatory vs. Discretionary Spending Graphs

<http://nationalpriorities.org/resources/federal-budget-101/budget-briefs/federal-discretionary-and-mandatory-spending/>

Historical Debt to GDP ratio: 1930-Present

<http://www.factcheck.org/2011/07/fiscal-factcheck/>

The Daily Show: "Countdown to Armedebton"

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-july-25-2011/armadebtdon-2011---nonfiction-captain-america>

ABC News: "Super Committee Destined to Fail?"

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/super-committee-destined-fail-14276778>

Citizens Against Government Waste "China" ad (2010)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CC8jAd84VyQ>

Who Owns Our Debt: Graph

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/zrzhao/fiscalissues//who-owns-us-national-debt-30-sept-2010-1.png>

HW - Due Wednesday 11/30

Read the following two short documents about the USAPATRIOT Act and answer the following questions:

[patriot act flyer.pdf](#)

[DefensePatriotAct.doc](#)

1) Compare and contrast the USAPATRIOT Act with the Alien and Sedition Acts passed during the Adams

administration. What overlaps/similarities do you see? What major differences do you see? Cite specific details from the articles and the work you've done on the Adams administration to support your answer.

2) Ben Franklin once wrote, "He who surrenders freedom for the sake of security deserves neither." Do you agree or disagree with Franklin? In light of his statement, do you believe the USAPATRIOT Act is justified? Are you willing to sacrifice your personal rights and privacy for the sake of national security? Why or why not?

ONLINE SOCRATIC SEMINAR - RESPONSES DUE MONDAY 12/5

Click on the links below to access the 6 questions - you all have a Google Docs account set up through Sharon High School

Your login is your computer login name@sharonschools.net
Your password is your regular school computer password

Once you open each document, click on the "comments" tab and enter your comment. You may respond directly to the question as well as to what your classmates write.

Question 1

<https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1gJQkjJfbIpDstDI65TfoYIroXgNCpdwlbq642GNko84/edit>

Question 2

https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1k4jrvM1_8n7v5jl6EAnnSBUN8yKYPgGoqXy08qILzHA/edit

Question 3

<https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1vcpU55TIMMol6qvDWNAGcm2lpZDTC8LML0aodeDSEWM/edit>

Question 4

https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1CISxCC3j6VEQt8v7dBorOx7puM_guib2BQbmern7y14/edit

Question 5

<https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1b6fmqlOISmdZ2Yt2mNY4SZGAsNFLvL1RXqMjM4XJTFs/edit>

Question 6

https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/12Nq281M_pe9LtE-gbjZMGY9G-nRfG3JgEg9ImPnvARg/edit

CIVIL WAR READINGS - HOMEWORK - DUE TUESDAY 12/13

Read your assigned section (Group 1, 2, or 3) and answer the corresponding questions in the packet (click link below to download and print)

[CivilWarReadingsInClass2011.doc](#)

You will exchange answers with members of other groups tomorrow in class.

CIVIL WAR QUIZ - MONDAY 12/19

Download revised study guide

[UNITGUIDECIVILWAR2011.doc](#)

Link to GoogleDocs study guide

https://docs.google.com/a/sharonschools.net/document/d/1PstsFYTGU7mNUFdcUdc9pCviS60_eDzBQv5BqaokEzQ/edit

Feel free to use the comment stream to ask questions and exchange ideas with classmates!