

AP Government Summer Readings and Assignment, 2010
Jan Rush, Blue Springs South High School

You have two summer assignments for AP Government:

1. *Hardball: How Politics is Played* reading and writing assignment
2. Current events project

The *Hardball* assignment will be due the first day of school, August 18, 2010, **regardless of which semester you take AP Government**. If you are enrolled in AP Govt. first semester your current events assignment will also be due on August 18th. If you are enrolled in AP Govt. 2nd semester you must turn in your **current events assignment** the first day of 2nd semester, January 4, 2011.

Hardball Summer Reading Assignment

Read and complete the assignment on *Hardball: How Politics is Played* by Chris Matthews. The book is available at Barnes and Noble or can be found online, Amazon has the book for \$10.20, or you might try half.com or other used book sources. Be sure to get the “Revised and Updated” edition of the book with the purple and blue cover. Students in 2009-10 seemed to like the book a lot and might have a copy for sale—check.

Examine the political maxims from *Hardball* for current relevancy—this is an election year.

- **Pick four of the maxims listed below & explain them in your own words** (at least one paragraph for the explanation.) Include one quote from each section that best exemplifies your maxims. Justify your quotation selection—*why* you chose the quote you did.
 - **Essay:** In your role as a campaign advisor, which two maxims would you repeat to your candidate every morning during the campaign? Why? Which maxim (s) would you tell your candidate to ignore and why? Your essay should be at least two pages long. It might be helpful to have a real candidate in mind when you’re writing your essay—that’s up to you.
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| • What’ve ya done for me lately? | • Leave no shot unanswered |
| • All politics is local | • Hang a Lantern on Your Problem |
| • Triangulation | • Politics = Power |
| • It’s better to receive than to give | • Only talk when it improves the silence |
| • Dance with the one that brung ya | • Retail politics |
| • Keep your enemies in front of you | • The press is the enemy |
| • Don’t get mad; don’t get even; get ahead | |

There will be a quiz during the first week of class on *Hardball*. Be sure to know the following terms and people, as well the meaning behind the maxims.

Terms and people

Hardball	Niccolo Macchiavelli
“The Johnson Treatment”	Ronald Reagan
Positioning	Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill
Pol	Richard Nixon
The Establishment	Richard Nixon
Retail Politics	LBJ
Patronage	Bill Clinton
Wholesale Politics	Jimmy Carter
Spin	Chris Matthews

Assignment #2: Current Events

Due Date: 1st day of the semester, August 18, 2010; or 1st day of 2nd semester, January 4, 2011.

Over the summer, or through the fall, you are going to follow current events and get a head start on understanding how government operates. You need to select **six news articles**, from **six separate weeks**, and write a reflection for each article. In your reflection you should include:

1. The impact of this event/decision on the US government.
2. The consequences of this event/decision (good/bad)
3. How the event/decision should have happened differently or why the event was correct, as is.
4. Why did you choose the article?

Please clearly address each item above in your reflection. Please attach the article to your write-up and turn it in with your reflection. You may print the article from the internet, however you must pay attention to the date of the article, the articles must be from six different weeks. Remember your goal is to better understand how the government operates, so keep that in mind when selecting articles.

Focus your study on any of the following areas: **foreign policy** (U.S. relations with foreign countries) or **national/domestic policy** (examples would include: Homeland Security, immigration, taxes, healthcare reform, education, judicial nominations, the economy, judicial nomination hearings).

You may turn in your assignment by e-mail, jrush@bssd.net, or bring your assignment to school on the due date. **IF you turn in your *Hardball* assignment by Friday, August 6 you will begin the semester with 20 points extra credit, regardless of enrollment in first or second semester.**

Assignment #3: Review and become familiar with the AP College Board U.S. Government website:

http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_usgov.html?usgovpol

The College Board web site is an excellent resource for students to use for information throughout the course. Log on to the College Board and read the introduction to AP US Government. Answer the questions from the College Board website on the last page of this packet.

I'm excited about teaching a vibrant course that changes focus as current events unfold. I look forward to learning more about how our government operates and hearing your views on our political system and the men and women who operate in the political theater. I anticipate many lively, well informed discussions that will broaden our view of our country and our role in U.S. civic life.

If you have any questions you may contact me through school e-mail at jrush@bssd.net. I will be away from home several times during the summer but should still have access to e-mail.

Due: August 18, 2010 or January 4, 2011

Name _____

AP U.S. Government and Politics
Internet Scavenger Hunt

1. What are three ways to prepare for the AP exam?
2. What is the cost of the examination?
3. In what month are the exams usually given?
4. What day, date, and time is the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam given?
5. Identify the six topics to be covered throughout the semester.
6. What percentage of the exam deals with political parties, interest groups, & mass media?
7. What are the three primary source documents used to prepare for the AP exam?
8. What are two Web sites that may be used for the legislative branch?