
ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND HONORS ECONOMICS

Summer Assignment: 2010-2011

- Get the textbook. See the directions on page 3.
- Enroll in Blackboard. See the directions on page 4.
- All work on this assignment must be typed!
- The assignment will be due **Tuesday, September 7 or Wednesday, September 8** depending if you are in the 'A' day or 'B' sections.
- The Part Two reading is on Blackboard. You must enroll in my Blackboard course and download it. It is in the "Course Documents" folder inside the Summer Assignment folder, 2010-2011.

Part I. The US Constitution with Annotations

The first thing you are going to do in this assignment is to read all of the US Constitution. You can find it at this location: <http://topics.law.cornell.edu/constitution>

Become familiar with it. Learn how it is organized. Remember that the Constitution is a legal document and is written as such.

The Annotations Assignment

- <http://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/index.html>
 - The source of this annotation is The Congressional Research Service, the Library of Congress. An annotation should be basically neutral in its analysis, acknowledging that the Constitution is subject to interpretation.
1. Using the above Constitution website for the annotations, select and paste each assigned section of the Constitution.
 2. Read the annotated comments about that section of the Constitution.
 3. In a strong paragraph, summarize the annotation, identifying and restating in your own words, the most important points made in the annotation about that section of the Constitution.
 4. Keep your summaries organized by the assigned Articles of the Constitution.

Sections of the Constitution to read and summarize the annotation.

Article One

1. The impeachment power of the House and the Senate (section 2, paragraph 5. Section 3, paragraph 6)
2. The interstate commerce clause (section 8, paragraph 3)
3. The necessary and proper clause (section 8, paragraph 18)
4. Habeas corpus (section 9, paragraph 2)

Article Two

1. The executive power (section 1, paragraph 1)
2. “The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States” (section 2, paragraph 1)
3. Treaty making and appointment powers (section 2, paragraphs 2 & 3)
4. “he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed” (section 3)

Article Three

1. “The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court” (section 1)
2. “and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain” (section 1)
3. Original and appellate jurisdiction (section 1, paragraph 2)

Article Six

1. “This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.” (paragraph 2)

Part Two. Additional Reading

1. “Theories of Constitutional Interpretation”

Assignment for the Additional Reading

1. “Theories of Constitutional Interpretation”
 - a. Read the article and make a glossary of at least 15 terms. Focus first on terms that are new to you and then the terms that, while you understand them, are critically important to understanding the reading. Use any source to create the glossary, but try very hard to restate the definitions you find in your own words. This is a skill that will become increasingly important.

- b. Take personal notes summarizing the main ideas. I am NOT going to collect these personal notes, but be accountable for yourself and practice what it takes to be a successful college students – reading notes.
- c. **Quote Analysis**
 - i. A quote analysis is an assignment in which you choose a quotation of no more than three sentences from the reading and write about it.
 - ii. Select two quotes from the “originalist” perspective and two from the “non-originalist” perspective. The choices of quotations are entirely up to you, but pick quotes directly related to the author’s perspective about interpreting the Constitution.
 - iii. Write two responses to each of the quotes following these directions:
 - 1. In the first response, write 3 to 5 sentences of the analysis, explaining the argument of the quote in your own words. In the second 3 to 5 sentences, present a argument of your own supporting, extending, or criticizing the thesis of the quotation.

Source: “The Quote Analysis: Teaching Political Science Students to Read with Focus” by Charles Hersch, *Cleveland State University*

2010-2011

Information Regarding Purchasing the Textbook

Textbook

American Government: Continuity and Change, 2006 Edition, Eighth Edition
by [Karen O'Connor](#), [Larry Sabato](#)

ISBN: 0-321-29225-1

To search for the book, use the ISBN number and go to Barnes and Noble, Amazon’s, GetTextbooks.com, or Alibris.com web sites to find and order the text.

According to the web sites, you might be able to find used copies starting for approximately \$35 or less.

You can also see if you can find a student from last year’s classes. You will have to negotiate the price with them.

You must have the textbook by the end of the second week of class.