

Summer Assignments
2017

The following assignments will be due on the first day of class, which will be **September 5, 2017**.

Assignment #1

Read the book *Hardball: How Politics is Played by One who Knows the Game* by Chris Matthews

“*Hardball*, first published in 1988, is like a modern version of Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, only much more richly illustrated, with anecdotes drawn from talk-show host Chris Matthews’s stint as a congressional staffer (where he worked for, among others, renowned Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill). Discussing such basic principles as “It’s not who you know; it’s who you get to know” and “Don’t get mad, don’t get even—get ahead,” Matthews not only dishes out choice Washington insider info, he has over the years inspired many readers to apply his principles for political success to their own professional lives.” (Amazon Review)

Mathews structures the book around a series of political maxims:

- What’ve ya done for me lately?
- All politics is local.
- It’s better to receive than to give.
- Triangulation
- Dance with the one that brung ya.
- Keep your enemies in front of you.
- Don’t get mad; Don’t get even; Get ahead.
- Leave no shot unanswered.
- Hang a Lantern on Your Problem.
- Politics = Power
- Only talk when it improves the silence
- Retail politics.

After reading Chris Mathews’ book, complete the following in a 4-6 page paper:

- Choose one quote or passage from six of the chapters. Please choose a quote from the text of the chapter, **not the actual maxim itself**. To analyze each quote, make sure you explain what the quote means, the quote’s importance to politics or government, and your personal opinion of the quote. Make sure that they are quotes/passages that evoke a real response in you.
- This paper should be written in MLA format and include an introduction and a conclusion.
- I have attached a sample exemplar to help guide you.
- Please see rubric on the next page. Be aware of where they points are coming from and make sure you cover each requirement accordingly.

Hardball by Chris Matthews – Sample Quote Analysis

- Do not forget you need a **quality** introduction and conclusion, along with your analysis of 6 quotes.
- Analysis should include 3 parts:
 - What you think the quote means
 - Your analysis as to why you think this quote is important to politics/government
 - Your personal opinion
- You may use personal pronouns in your opinion paragraphs, but should avoid them elsewhere
- Avoid formulaic introductions such as: In chapter one I found a quote, or The quote I found from chapter 6 is.....Just start writing about your topic!

Matthews encourages his readers to live by the maxim “Don’t Get Mad; Don’t Get Even; Get Ahead.” In life and in politics this is a valuable lesson. In describing the experience of a Washington pol who did just the opposite, he highlights its importance: “Sully’s story shows the pains to which people will go for vengeance, sadly paralleling the genius we see in those great criminal minds whose schemes to rob banks so often exceed in originality the planning of those who own them.” (Matthews, p. 109) When people feel wronged, they have options. Those who participate in politics have ample opportunities to feel wronged, whether it is a lost election, failed passage of a bill, or a major appointment that did not come through. Oftentimes, people will become so obsessed with revenge that they will spend countless hours contriving elaborate plans to even the score. Much like the criminals who used their intelligence and energy to plan their heist, they are wasting their time. Imagine if they directed those resources to a legal endeavor. They too could become wealthy entrepreneurs, instead of ultimately finding themselves in a jail cell.

This concept is vitally important to the field of politics and government. There will be plenty of opportunities for those involved in our system to end up on the losing side. That being said, what they do next will separate those who go on to succeed and those who get stuck in the past. It takes energy and brain space to dwell on hurt feelings and revenge. That energy and creativity is best served focused on moving forward, whether it is finding a new candidate to support, a new piece of legislation to get behind, or even a new career. Wasting these resources ultimately hurts the country and the citizens who have an expectation that their elected officials are working to represent them and to do what is right for the country.

Like most of Matthews' advice, it is not just relevant to the world of politics, but can easily be applied to every aspect of life. No matter what catastrophe is happening in someone's personal life, the sun will definitely rise come morning time and the Earth will keep on spinning. The key to happiness is to somehow get back on board and move forward, though at times it is easier said than done. The sooner a person can move past negative feelings and start devoting their energy to more positive pursuits, the sooner they will find success and peace of mind. To quote the former governor of Maryland, Marvin Mandel, it is best if you "don't spend your life looking through a rearview mirror" and just get on with it.

Hardball Paper

| 0 | 1-2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| Not Done/Missing | Unsatisfactory/ Incomplete | Basic | Good | Excellent |
| Criteria | Your Score | Weight | Points Possible | Your Points |
| Introduction | | x2 | 10 | |
| Quote 1 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Quote 2 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Quote 3 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Quote 4 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Quote 5 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Quote 6 - What it means? | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Importance to Politics/Gov | | X1 | 5 | |
| ----- Personal Opinion | | X1 | 5 | |
| Conclusion | | X2 | 10 | |
| Grammar/Format | | X2 | 10 | |
| Total Points | | | 120 | |

Assignment #2

Journal Assignment

During the summer you will create a Current Events Journal. The journal is a way for you to document current events and respond to them. Your goal is to pick what you consider to be the **most important issue** of the week, either politically or globally. You should have one entry per week for the month of August (total of 4). Your responses and copies of the articles should be included. Your response should contain the following information:

- Brief summary of the main points of the article.
- Analysis of how this issue effects the US or effects politics (this will be the longest piece and most thought provoking).
- Why is this important? Why was this the **most important issue** of the week politically or globally?
- Your own personal reflection on the issue.

Current Events Journal

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|-----------|
| 0 | 1-2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Not Done/Missing | Unsatisfactory/ Incomplete | Basic | Good | Excellent |

| Criteria | Your Score | Weight | Points Possible | Your Points |
|--|------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| Summary of the Article | | X1 | 5 | |
| Analysis of the Issue - Effect on US and/or politics | | X2 | 10 | |
| Explanation of Importance | | X1 | 5 | |
| Personal Reflection | | X1 | 5 | |
| Total Points | | | 25 | |

Assignment #3

Chapter 1 Assignment Sheet ~ p. 1-17

You can make flashcards for the terms if you prefer. Make sure you bring them for me to check. You can also use Quizlet for the terms, just be prepared to show them to me on your phone. The questions should be answered utilizing complete sentences and embedding the question in your answer. There is no need to re-state the question. This can be hand-written (legibly) or feel free to type if you wish.

Terms:

1. authority
2. bureaucratic view
3. democracy
4. direct (participatory) democracy
5. elite
6. legitimacy
7. class view
8. pluralist view
9. power
10. power elite view
11. representative democracy

Questions:

1. What are the two fundamental questions about governing that will be addressed in the text? What do you think the answers are to these questions?
2. Explain what is meant by power, and by political power in particular. Relate the latter to authority, legitimacy, and democracy.
3. Explain why the framers of the U.S. Constitution preferred representative democracy over direct democracy.
4. Differentiate between majoritarian politics and elitist politics, explaining the four major theories of the latter.
5. Explain how political change tends to make political scientists cautious in stating how politics works or what values dominate it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me over the summer at Victoria.Lussier@sau19.org