

United States Government and Politics Summer Reading 2019-2020

Your summer reading assignment is going to give you an opportunity to explore a topic, person, institution, or issue that you find compelling. You are asked to write a short summary and assessment of the book you choose to read, but my hope is that you read the book looking for more questions rather than answers. What seems essential about American government and politics? What issues or debates have shaped our national government and its history? What issues or debates continue to shape our nation? What is our national political identity?

We will share our reactions to our books and the unanswered questions that we think are important, engaging, or essential. Hopefully we can spend at least part of the class addressing these questions in ways that you find interesting, compelling, and challenging over the course of the year together.

In addition to selecting (see below) and reading a book, you should:

- 1) Write a 2-3 page summary of the book (20 points). This summary should include:
 - A summary of the author's argument or purpose for writing the book (5 points).
 - An explanation of two examples the author uses to support their thesis or purpose (5 points each, 10 points total).
 - An assessment of the author's argument (strengths and/or weaknesses) (5 points).

*How you structure this essay/report is up to you.

- 2) Be prepared to share with the class two or three questions or topics addressed in the book that you feel are worth exploring (5 points).

The first three days of class will be devoted to sharing our reactions to our books and discussing relevant issues or questions that we took from our reading. Ultimately, we hope to identify at least one question or issue per unit topic that we want to explore more and develop assignments and classroom activities that will help us explore that topic or question together.

You can choose a book, but need to get it approved by Mr. von Glahn first. Otherwise, you can select a book from the list below. As you select a book, please put your name in the right hand column; no two students can read the same book.

Title	Author	Student
Political History/Philosophy		
Founding Brothers	Joseph Ellis	
Ladies of Liberty	Cokie Roberts	
The Framers Coup	Michael Klarman	
The Woman's Hour	Elaine Weiss	
Toward Democracy	James Kloppenberg	
Democracy, A Life	Paul Cartledge	
Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention, May to September 1787	Catherine Bowen	
American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America	Colin Woodard	
The Constitution Today	Akhil Reed Amar	
Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus	Rick Perlstein	
The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism	Steve Kornacki	
Leadership in Turbulent Times	Doris Kearns Goodwin	
Biography/Individuals		
Alexander Hamilton	Ron Chernow	

From the Corner of the Oval	Beck Dorey-Stein	
President Reagan: The Triumph of Imagination	Richard Reeves	
American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson	Joseph Ellis	
What it Takes	Richard Ben Cramer	
American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House	John Meacham	
John Adams	David McCullough	
Devil in the Grove (Thurgood Marshall)	Gilbert King	
Justice For All (Earl Warren)	Jim Newton	
The Return of George Washington	Edward Larson	
Murrow: His Life and Times	A.M. Sperber	
The Gatekeepers	Chris Whipple	
West Wingers	Gautam Raghavan	
The Supreme Court		
The Nine	Jeffrey Toobin	
Gideon's Trumpet	Anthony Lewis	
A People's History of the Supreme Court	Peter Irons	
Supreme Conflict	Jan Crawford Greenburg	
The Brethren	Bob Woodward	
The Oath	Jeffrey Toobin	
Dissent and the Supreme Court	Melvin Urofsky	
Injustices	Ian Millhiser	
Congress/The FBI/Etc.		
Enemies: A History of the FBI	Tim Weiner	
The First Congress	Fergus Bordewich	

The House	Robert Remini	
Wagging War	David Barron	
The American Senate	Neil MacNeil	
Act of Congress	Robert Kaiser	
Many are the Crimes	Ellen Schrecker	