

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT-2011**

1. Spend a few hours in a library. Speak with the librarian about your forthcoming course in American Government/Basic Economics. Search out those sections of the stacks that offer books and material relating to civic life, politics, and government. Areas to concentrate would be: foreign policy, economics, introduction to law, the judicial system, criminal law, civil law, the Supreme Court and other aspects of the American political/economic scene. Scan these books for insight and compare them to our text book.

2. Your political affiliation for the 1st semester is as follows:

Conservative

Jesse A.	Jesse M.
Marjory C.	Leah S.
Kaytlyn F.	Josiah T.
Gabby H.	Kendall W.

Liberal

Audra C.	Rich S.
Alayna E.	Hannah S.
Caroline H.	Ryan W.
Elizabeth M.	

3. In essay form, answer the appropriate question as it pertains to your appointed political philosophy: What is a Conservative (Liberal)? The essay will be type written, double spaced, 12 font, one page in length. The style, format, and content will be your own creation. Utilize the research mentioned in paragraph 1 above, as well as the internet and other sources, to develop your outline which will lead to the final product. Use simple sentences, proper grammar, correct spelling and all aspects of writing academic papers you have learned in your past studies. This paper will be collected at the beginning of our first class.

4. Become familiar with the work of the French political thinker and historian **Alexis De Tocqueville**, particularly his best known *Democracy in America*. You are not required to read this book, merely scan it for familiarization. Use the internet and other research methods to gain an insight into the vision De Tocqueville made of our young American form of government. Be prepared to participate (have notes and material) in a class discussion of what you learned from your research. Come prepared on the first day of class.

5. Research all sources you can find to describe the primary election system in the United States. Place emphasis on the presidential primaries for both parties. In cursive form (this means long hand), write a one page essay explaining the basics of the process. Your essay will not exceed 300 words. Utilize all the guidelines given in item 3 above. Bring this paper to our first day of class.