**AP US Government & Politics Summer Readings**

**and Assignment, 2015**

Mr. Wallace

You have one summer assignment for AP US Government and Politics:

*Hardball: How Politics is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game* reading and writing assignment

The Hardball assignment will be due the first day of school. All work is due in hard copy. Do not email it to me. Do not file transfer it and attempt to print on day one. Do not bring your flash drive. Don’t share it on Google. Kindly print it at home and bring it in.

**Hardball Summer Reading Assignment**

Read and complete the assignment on Hardball: How Politics is Played by Chris Matthews. The book is available online for about $10, but prices vary. Be sure to get the “Revised and Updated” edition of the book with the purple cover.

Yes, Mr. Matthews is a liberal. Before you go and get all upset and claim I’m trying to indoctrinate you, take a deep breath. Matthews has been around for a long time and has been intimately involved in politics. And his book is a good one. In it, he details how politics works in this country. This is not a primer on how to be a good liberal.

If you want to read a good conservative book, try Joe Scarborough’s Last Best Hope. Here Scarborough discusses what he feels the conservative movement in this country needs to do in order to be victorious. There’s no summer assignment based on it, but it’s a good read too.

You are reading with the goal of understanding our system. Therefore, pay attention to the political maxims from Hardball for current relevancy.

Pick ***four*** of the maxims listed below (they are the chapter titles) & explain them in your own words. Your explanation should be at least one paragraph long, but this is not a scholarly essay and you cannot get it wrong. This is your opinion. Your opinion on the maxims cannot be wrong, but you need to *explain* your feelings, even if you think it’s bunk. Do yourself a favor and read the whole book before picking which ones to write about. If you just pick four, you are going to lose a lot of the context of what Matthews is saying.

Include one quote from each of the chapters you chose that best exemplifies your maxims. Yes, quote it and source it so I know what page it is on. This will be a good aid for class discussions.

Justify your quotation selection—***why*** did you choose the quote you did. Again, this is your opinion. Do not be afraid to express it. Your opinion will take you far in this class, no matter what it is.

**Essay:** In your role as a presidential 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, no more than three. Pick a real candidate in the upcoming presidential race (there are many, and it’s still so early) and let me know who it is. This does not have to be the person you actually support, and can be a minor third party candidate. Just make sure they are actually running for president.

**Quiz Alert!**

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

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| **Here are the maxims to choose from:**  It’s Not Who You Know; It’s Who You Get to Know  All Politics is Local  It’s Better to Receive Than to Give  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 | Only Talk When It Improves the Silence  Always Concede on Principle  Hang a Lantern on your Problem  Spin!  The Press is the Enemy  The Reputation of Power  Positioning |
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**Terms and People**

**(You don’t have to turn in definitions, but you are expected to know these)**

Hardball

The Johnson Treatment

Positioning

Pol

The Establishment

Retail Politics

Patronage

Wholesale Politics

Spin

Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill

Richard Nixon

LBJ

Jimmy Carter

Bill Clinton

**Helpful hints to avoid panic**

1. Buy the book and read it early. Don’t wait until late August.
2. Have fun with the reading. Keep an open mind.
3. You may want to try watching Hardball on MSNBC (yikes, there’s that liberal streak again! Breathe). It’s on every weekday at seven. Despite Mr. Matthews’ tendency to over talk his guests, the analysis of the issues is pretty good.
4. See number one.