2014-2015 AP Gov/Econ Syllabus

AP Unit 1 – Political Media Bias In the 21st Century

**Month Day In-Class Discussion Topic Reading to Prepare for that Day**

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| Aug. | 21 Th | Introduction: [**Rules**](http://www.bornemania.com/gov/rules/htmlclassrules.html) and Forced-Choice Exercise: [**Proposed Rules**](http://www.bornemania.com/gov/projects/rulesproject.shtml) | Proposed Rules Handout  Class Rules Agreement |
|  | 22 F | Forced-Choice Concluded  The Legislative Process: Form Constituent Groups & Legislative Groups; Select Legislative Leaders; **Optional LUNCH SESSION to Craft Rules** | Proposed Rules Handout |
|  | 25 M | Q: OUHSD Policies: Homework and Grades  (Legislative Leaders Check with me on Proposed Rules) | Homework (BP 6154) and Student Achievement (BP 5121) <http://www.ouhsd.k12.ca.us/about/schoolboard/boardpolicies.htm> |
|  | 26 T | How to Read & Think  (for an AP *Government* Class)  Q: On Shooting an Elephant | Orwell: “Shooting an Elephant”  <http://orwell.ru/library/articles/elephant/english/e_eleph> |
|  | 27 W | How to Think, Speak & Write | Orwell: “Politics and the English Language”: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/orwell46.htm> |
|  | 28 Th | Discussion of [**Proposed Legislation**](http://www.bornemania.com/gov/projects/rulesproject.shtml) (Bring class set)  Intro. to Parliamentary Procedure;  Vote on [Final Proposals](http://www.bornemania.com/gov/projects/rulesproject.shtml)  Count and Re-Count Votes  **LUNCH SESSION for Voting** | (Bring Finalized Rules with vote preference markings) |
|  | 29 F | Q: Zinn’s 2000 Election and the War on Terrorism | Zinn: Ch. 25 from A People’s History of the United States: “The 2000 Election and the ‘War on Terrorism’ (pp. 675 – 682, *handout*)  **Class Contracts Due Today** |
| Sept. | 1 M | LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL | - |
|  | 2 T | **Film: Unprecedented – 1**  Q: The Federal USCCR Report  Justice vs. Fairness | Executive Summary of the USCCR Report on Florida 2000  <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/vote2000/report/exesum.htm> |
|  | 3 W | **Film: Unprecedented – 2**  Is being Non-Partisan “Fair”? &  Why We Need to be Informed **LUNCH SESSION (required)** | Media Bias (*handout*): <http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/MediaBias2006-DC.pdf>  pp. 2 – 3 Point of View |
|  | 4 Th | Q: Topical Focus, Point of View, Bias, & Propaganda + Objectivity | Media Bias: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/MediaBias2006-DC.pdf>  pp. 4 – 8 Objectivity |
|  | 5 F | **Film: Outfoxed (excerpts)**  Watch for ways in which media bias is evident by both filmmakers and “news” makers | Media Bias: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/MediaBias2006-DC.pdf>  pp. 8 – 16 Examples  and  <http://www.businessinsider.com/study-watching-fox-news-makes-you-less-informed-than-watching-no-news-at-all-2012-5?utm_source=slate&utm_medium=referral&utm_term=partner> |
|  | 8 M | Q: Causes for Bias Within the Media: Sources & Forms of Media | Al Franken: Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, “Ch. 9: Top 5 Secrets Wall Street Fat Cats Don’t Want you to Know!” (*handout*) |
|  | 9 T | **L**ecture: From Mossadegh to Abu Ghraib – US Foreign Policy in Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan 1950+ | Timeline Part II: <http://www.bornemania.com/gov/outline/timeline.shtml> |
|  | 10 W | Defining Propaganda  **Film: The End of Summer** | Media Bias: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/MediaBias2006-DC.pdf>  pp. 17 – 25 Propaganda |
|  | 11 Th | **Film: Hijacking Catastrophe (Introduction + 30 minute version)**  Pseudo Rational Appeals + Blatant Falsehoods & Repetition  **LUNCH SESSION (required)** | 9-11 and Iraq: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/spotlight/the911decade/2011/09/201197155513938336.html> |
|  | 12 F | Philosophy vs. Rhetoric,  Argument vs. Persuasion, and  Formal vs. Informal Fallacies  (*see specific list below*) | Logical Fallacies: <http://www.logicalfallacies.info/>  And/Or - <http://www.theness.com/index.php/how-to-argue/> |
|  | 15 M | **Film: The Control Room – 1**  (Identify Logical Fallacies of American News Media & Public) | cf. Mother Jones Timeline Leading up to the Invasion of Iraq:  <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2011/12/leadup-iraq-war-timeline> |
|  | 16 T | **Film: The Control Room – 2**  **LUNCH SESSION (required) Back to School Night!!!** | Reference (course of the war): <http://www.motherjones.com/bush_war_timeline> |
| ---/+ | 17 W  Min. | **Music: 16 Military Wives**  (Art, Propaganda & Fallacies) | Lyrics to 16 Military Wives: <http://www.songmeanings.net/songs/view/3530822107858533163/> |
|  | 18 Th | \*\*Q: Texts and Texas  Analysis of the Sources;  + The California Standards  **(FEATURING Magruder’s!)** | Texas Conservatives: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/13/education/13texas.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=Texas%20School%20Curriculum&st=cse> + |
|  | 19 F | \*\*Q: Influence on Textbooks – Part 1 – Textbooks in the Marketplace: Assessing the impact of Special Interests (Guns & Gays)  **(FEATURING Magruder’s!)**  **Film: The Revisionaries** | Bad Textbooks:  <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/jun/21/how-texas-inflicts-bad-textbooks-on-us/> |
|  | X | **AP Gov. Session #1**  **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm** | McGraw Hill 5 Steps to 5: Ch. 1 & 11 (Mass Media) + p. 12 Plan B |
|  | 22 M | Q: Influence on Textbooks – Part 2 – Textbook Publishers – PLUS!  Capitalism, Socialism, and Communism  **(FEATURING Magruder’s)** | Surely, You’re Joking, Mr. Feynman!: <http://www.textbookleague.org/103feyn.htm> |
| + | 23 T | Legislative “Propaganda”?  \*\*Q: Plastics  **Film: Bag It!**  **LUNCH SESSION (required)** | One Word, “Plastics.”: <http://californiawatch.org/environment/plastics-industry-edited-environmental-textbook-12123> |
|  | 24 W | **Citations: Reasons & Formats**  FactCheck & Politifact +  Q: How to Lie with Footnotes | Al Franken: Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them, “Ch. 2 – Ann Coulter: Nutcase” - <http://ethosworld.com/library/Franken-Lies-And-the-Lying-Liars-Who-Tell-Them.pdf>  Citation Handout (Guadalupe) |
|  | 25 Th | **Unit 1 - Multiple-Choice Test** | - |
| (+) | 26 F | **Discussion of Test**  **Preparation of Writing Assignment** | **-** |

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| Alt.  Test | - | A Brief History of Prop. 8 and Same-Sex Marriage in the US – OR – Other Hot Topic | Summary of District Court Ruling, pp.109 – 136:  <http://www.scribd.com/goodasyou/d/35374462-California-Prop-8-Ruling-August-2010> |

**Logical Fallacies** (Try Making Your Own in Response to “The Sky Is Blue!”)  
Non-Sequitur (it doesn’t follow: this covers pretty much all logical fallacies)

Red Herring (distraction)

Ad Hominem (attack the *source* or *person*); Guilt by Association; Genetic Fallacy

Irrelevant Appeals: antiquity, tradition, novelty, unrelated authority, popularity, wealth, poverty, and force (using these as arguments, when they are not relevant)  
  
Fallacy of Consequence (“if I don’t do it, someone else will”)

Correlation is not Causation (False Correlation); Weak Analogy; Post Hoc, Propter Hoc (temporal appearance)

Fallacist Fallacy (inappropriately negating a conclusion based on bad reasoning); Straw Man (create a weak argument, then attack it)

Slippery Slope Fallacy; Reductio ad Absurdam (taking it to extremes)

Begging the Question/Circular Reasoning (“We know it’s true, because it says so.”)

Arguing from Ignorance (“You can’t Prove it, so… it could be!”)

False Dilemma/Faulty Dichotomy (“either This, or That!”)

Hasty Generalization vs. Sweeping Generalization (inappropriately attributing characteristics of the individual to the group or vice versa)

Gambler’s Fallacy (heads!); Fallacies of Composition and Division (pieces and wholes)

Subjectivist and Relativist Fallacies (“well, that may be true for *you*, but…”)

Moralistic vs. Naturalistic Fallacy (*should be* vs. *is*); Fatalism

**Key Terms:**

Topical Focus

Point of View

Bias

Propaganda (different definitions)

Objectivity

Sociocentric Thinking

Subjective vs. Objective

Philosophy vs. Rhetoric

Argument vs. Persuasion (vs. Fight)

Proof vs. Evidence

Formal vs. Informal Fallacies

Evaluating Writing about Same-Sex Marriage

For this alternate test you will be reading at least t**hree** (3) different articles.

The first one is given: Judge Vaughn-Walker’s Ruling in the Case of Perry vs. Schwarznegger (2010) on Proposition 8 (enacted in 2008). Read the Summary of the District Court Ruling, pp.109 – 136:

<http://www.scribd.com/goodasyou/d/35374462-California-Prop-8-Ruling-August-2010>

The second article will be one of **your choice** which deals with the US Supreme Court’s ruling on the case in Hollingsworth v. Perry (2013). It needs to be from a mainstream media or academic source.

The third article can be any article or media presentation (film, video, etc.) about same-sex marriage in another state or from 2014. It may be from any source, but must be a published source.

**First off, inform yourself on the basics of California’s Prop. 8 (2008):**Who favored it & why?

Who opposed it & why?

How did it become law?

At what different levels was it challenged?

What were the additional legal issues which became related and how were they resolved? (filming the proceedings, sexuality of the judge, role of the state in supporting the proposition, combination at Supreme Court with other cases…)

**Guidelines for Take-Home Essay –**

6 typed pages MAXIMUM. You **may** use 1.5 spacing, but do NOT single space.

You MUST use footnotes, and this is part of the 6 page maximum. (Yes, others prefer internal citation or endnotes – I am demanding footnotes.) A cover page is nice and does not count towards the 6 page max. A sources cited page is also nice and does not count towards the 6 page max.

No need for a fancy intro. Get to the point: no fluff.

You will be graded (not on the basis of your agreement with me or SCotUS, but) on your cogent arguments and clear use of evidence. Build your case.

10 pts. - Spelling, grammar, punctuation, format, neatness, form (-0.5 per error)

15 pts. – minimum of three (3) proper citations from 3 different sources (5 pts. each)

25 pts. – clarity of thought and strength of argument in each ¶

¶ 1 Introduction of the Topic (Same-sex marriage in the American media)

¶ 2 Assess Vaughn-Walker’s Ruling in the Prop. 8 Case

¶ 3 Assess an article on the US Supreme Court Ruling

¶ 4 Assess another article on same-sex marriage in the US

¶ 5 Your Personal Viewpoint (on the ruling, on the topic, on the assignment, etc.)

Each student will then make an appointment with me in which we go over your paper.