

iCitizen Project
PART 1: POLITICAL IDEOLOGY ESSAY
POL 120 – Fall 2018

Overview. Over the past few weeks, we have discussed the Founding of our nation. While there have been several strains of political thought in the history of our nation, the dominant strain (many argue) is classical liberalism, or “Lockeanism.” Yet, we have seen how modern American political culture has several tenets which clash with traditional Lockean political ideals (e.g. self-rule and limited government; individualism and the common good).

Your general task is to evaluate the extent that contemporary American political thought adheres to Lockeanism. You will do this by evaluating your own political ideology and assessing the extent that Locke’s ideas influence your own political beliefs. To do this, you will take two (2) additional ideological tests: the Pew Political Typology Quiz and the Political Compass Test. Links for both tests are provided on Blackboard, along with directions for how to complete them. Upon completing a test, be sure to provide a screenshot of your results and include them at the end of your essay.

Directions. Write an essay that answers/addresses the following questions:

1. Are Americans true classical liberals? Why or why not?
2. Do you think that the American adoption of Locke (as you interpret it) influences your own political ideology? How so?
3. Take a page or two to interpret and analyze your own political ideology. Think about the following questions:
 - a. Is your own ideology what you thought it was before starting this class?
 - b. Are you surprised by the Pew Political Typology quiz results? The Political Compass test results? Why or why not?
 - c. Do you agree with Locke’s statements? To what extent? Explain.

At minimum, you should reference the following items within your answer: (a) the Locke reading; (b) our textbook’s discussion of American ideals; and (c) the Pew Political Typography and Political Compass results.

Technical Details. Your essay should:

1. Be double-spaced;
2. Be 3-4 pages in length;
3. Use a readable, 12-point font;
4. Have normal, one-inch margins;
5. Use citations to reference course materials;
6. Have your name placed at the beginning of the paper; and
7. Be paginated.

Grading. In scoring your essay, I will use the following rubric (100 points possible):

1. **Thesis:** A good thesis statement is clear and tells the reader what the paper argues. Theses should appear in an introduction which provides a broad overview of the paper’s topic and communicates to the reader “where” the reader will end up at the end.
2. **Argumentation:** Essays should strive to provide fair representations of Lockean political thought and American political culture based on class discussions and readings. Such evidence should be

used logically and persuasively to advance the essay's thesis. The assignment's questions are adequately addressed and resolved.

3. **Organization:** Arguments should follow a logical layout, preventing the reader from becoming "lost" or unsure. Paragraphs should be of sufficient length (i.e. five or more sentences). The essay also appears aesthetically pleasing.
4. **Veracity:** Top-notch essays will prove their arguments with sufficient and appropriate evidence, while ensuring that such evidence is properly cited.
5. **Articulation:** Well-written essays will be devoid of spelling, grammar, and syntax errors. Essays should strive to follow the format guidelines above.

I will provide an evaluation rubric with categorial scores and an overall grade, with comments for each category.

Submission. Submit your completed essay on Blackboard using the SafeAssign link under the iCitizen tab. SafeAssign will perform a plagiarism check. NO EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NOTE: Make sure your document is submitted as a WORD Document (.docx or .doc); failure to do so will result in delayed grading. If you encounter difficulties with uploading your file, please email me as soon as possible.

Due Date. Monday, October 1, 2018 @ 11:59 p.m. via Blackboard