

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Waterloo, Ontario

Political Science 226: Government and Politics in the United States II

Instructor: Dr. Barry Kay

Problem Paper

Due Date: March 7, 2017

As Donald Trump enters a new Presidential term, outline the various challenges and opportunities that await him in implementing his policy goals, and securing the compliance of the different branches of the U.S. government during the next Congressional term. Whatever your views about him, how would you advise Trump to achieve his ends in dealing with the institutional process he faces? A thoughtful response should not expect the incoming president to radically change his policy priorities, but rather to adapt them somewhat as necessary to avoid the pattern of gridlock that has prevailed in recent years. You might note that some of Trump's policy agenda differs from conventional Republican orthodoxy as well as Democratic priorities.

Select a particular issue or policy area that you feel the president should address, and discuss how it is affected by the inter-relationship of the various branches of the American Government. In your paper, you should analyze the role performed by each of the President, the Congress and the Bureaucracy, as well as the Judiciary if appropriate, in the development of your particular policy, and how these different sectors interact. Your paper could include advice to the president's office as how to best achieve his aims in dealing with the congress, the bureaucracy and any other elements of the governmental system that you feel are appropriate for your policy idea. A particular concern for the president is how best to deal with a traditionally deadlocked congress whose members have their own policy agenda. If you wish, you may also include reference to other elements in the political system such as the media and interest groups, but this discussion should augment the main focus of co-ordinating the impact of the different governmental branches.

In addition to the quality and scope of your essay, it will be evaluated with regard to the fresh thinking and innovative analysis reflected within. Reference material for the paper may be drawn from course texts, newspapers, magazines, the *Almanac of American Politics*, *CQ.com* and other media material in addition to consulting the course texts. Useful websites include politico.com, realclearpolitics.com, house.gov, senate.gov, thomas.gov, slate.com, nytimes.com, washingtonpost.com, latimes.com, journalismnet.com, rnc.org and democrats.org. Any ideas that are taken from another source must be properly acknowledged. Papers should be submitted in hard copy, and those late will be subject to a penalty. While there is no prescribed length, most student papers range between 7 and 10 pages.