Comparative Gov. –Miss Natalie

**Theory Portfolio Assignment Directions and Rubric**

In this unit we will be studying the theories of Machiavelli and many others continuing our study of the development of Western political thought- this unit specifically focuses on absolutism, the enlightenment, and the development of democracy. For each different theorist/idea/concept we cover this unit, you will have the assignment to find a contemporary parallel. This contemporary parallel should be a modern representation or use of the idea/concept/theory, whether it is a news article, video footage of actions or speeches by current world leaders, something you see going on in local politics, or even something like the article about Tupac.

To complete the assignment, you will need to turn in a portfolio at the end of the unit that demonstrates your understanding of the theories/concepts we cover along with their contemporary parallels and your explanation of how that modern article or other media show this concept’s presence in our world today. This portfolio will be part of your final assessment for the unit, along with a more formal test. This is meant to be a more creative assessment, so have fun with it but also make sure you clearly demonstrate understanding of the theories/concepts. The portfolio can be created in a binder, folder, poster, or using some sort of online or digital media too!

**The following are the theories you must include in this project:**

**1. Absolutism  
2. Machiavelli’s ideas on leadership  
3. Montesquieu’s ideas on laws in relation to the nature of 3 types of government  
4. Thomas Paine’s ideas on human rights, republicanism, and democracy**

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**Rubric: Theory Portfolio Project**

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|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** | **Points Earned** |
| **Content**  15 points for each theory- 60 points total | Excellent  Content is comprehensive, accurate and shows deep analysis.  Each theory is clearly explained in the student’s own words, and they illustrate the connection between the theory and other artifact with appropriate and detailed explanation. | Good  Content is somewhat comprehensive, accurate, and shows analysis. Each theory is explained in the student’s own words, and they illustrate the connection between the theory and other artifact with sufficient and usually detailed explanation. | Fair  Content is not comprehensive and shows little analysis. Each theory is sometimes explained in the student’s own words, and they struggle to illustrate the connection between the theory and other artifact, lacking sufficient and detailed explanation. | Poor  Content is incomplete. Major points are not clear and no analysis is shown. Each theory is not explained in the student’s own words, and they do not illustrate the connection between the theory and other artifact, lacking any detailed explanation. |  |
| **Citations and Bibliography**  10 points | Excellent  Portfolio cites content from class, including notes and readings. Bibliography follows APA format and all research is cited correctly. | Good  Portfolio usually cites content from class, including notes and readings. Bibliography follows APA format and most research is cited correctly. | Fair  Portfolio sometimes cites content from class, including notes and readings. Bibliography somewhat follows APA format and some research is cited correctly. | Poor  Portfolio does not cite content from class, including notes and readings. Bibliography does not follow APA format and research is not cited correctly. |  |
| **Oral Presentation**  10 points | Excellent  Students knew their materials and were able to clearly explain one of their portfolio pieces and the connection. Students were able to answer questions regarding their presentation | Good  Students knew their materials and were able to clearly explain one of their portfolio pieces and the connection. Students were not as well prepared to answer questions regarding their presentation. | Fair  Students relied on their paper to explain one of their portfolio pieces and the connection. Students experienced difficulty answering questions regarding their presentation. | Poor  Students relied on their paper to explain one of their portfolio pieces and the connection. Students were unable to answer questions regarding their presentation. |  |
| **Clarity** **/Professionalism** 5 points | Excellent  Whole portfolio is organized and neatly finished. No spelling or grammatical errors. | Good  Whole portfolio is mostly organized or complete. Spelling and grammar mistakes are rare. | Fair  Portfolio is somewhat unorganized or incomplete. Frequent spelling and/or grammatical errors. | Poor  Portfolio is unorganized or incomplete. Major spelling and/or grammatical errors. |  |
| **Behavior and Respect**  5 points | Excellent  Student used all work time in class productively.   Student listened respectfully during others' presentations. | Good  Student used most of the work time in class productively.   Student often listened respectfully during others' presentations. | Fair  Student used some of the work time in class productively.   Student sometimes listened respectfully during others' presentations. | Poor  Student did not use work time in class productively.   Student did not listen respectfully during others' presentations. |  |

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**Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/90 points possible**