

American Politics Collaborative Website

In an attempt to broaden our discussion of American politics, you are required to join the American Politics Fall 2010 website (americanpoliticsfall2010.ning.com). The site's networking platform will allow you to dialogue with other college students who are also tracking American political developments through their classes. Our activities and discussions will encompass a wide range of topics, including the Obama administration, current events and issues, and the political process. You will bring a lot to the table. Make it yours by contributing often!

The website's success **depends on your ongoing participation**. You must:

1. **Join** americanpoliticsfall2010.ning.com. You will be sent an email invitation to join the site. Follow the steps in the email to join. You are expected to become a member of the site immediately. If you experience any problems, please email me right away!
2. Once you have joined the site you will need to create your profile. Be sure to **upload an image** or picture (one that complies with university guidelines) on "My Page." NEXT, click on "Forum" on the Main Page or DISCUSSION QUESTIONS and **reply to "DQ1: Introductions, Profiles, Who We Are." Post a message introducing yourself.** Include your first name, your college or university, something interesting about yourself, and respond to the question at the end of the prompt (on the website).
3. **Complete the beginning-of-the-semester survey.** Another will be given at the end of the semester, and you must complete both.
4. **Almost every week you are required to participate in the online dialogue** by posting 2 kinds of entries: (a) an original response to a Question of the Week, AND:
5. (b) at least **one response to another student's post.** Posts should be made before Sunday at midnight.
6. You must participate in at least one town hall meeting that will involve all six classes. Three are scheduled (9/24, 11/3, 11/30) and times are indicated in the syllabus and on the website.
7. You must interview another student on the website. A match will be made for you, and instructions will be provided. Due Friday, October 22 to your professor.

You need to consider the following when exchanging posts for this project:

- **DO NOT** write posts using IM or text messaging language! Yr entries shldnt look like this. Be substantive. Use formal English.
- Each original weekly post must contain a **minimum of 50 words**, or about four full lines on a regular page. Responses to other entries may be shorter, but must be understandable. Avoid abstract descriptions like "awesome" and so forth; support your statements with reasoning. One-sentence postings are insufficient.
- Politics often engenders passionate beliefs and opinions; all posts must use language that is **respectful of all points of view**, even those you may not agree with. **No personal attacks or foul or obscene language.** All posted images must also comply with standard university guidelines for decency. We are debating ideas within a larger academic setting, and you need to be mindful of that in all your uses of the site. Violators will be banned from the site and will lose points for ungraded activities. That said, please make the most of this opportunity to collaborate in this

cross-country experiment! Learn a lot from each other, and have fun with it.