POLITICAL NEWS

If you are not already paying attention to the national political news of the day, begin doing so today. Set up some system whereby you spend a minimum of 30 minutes daily listening to, and reading about the political situation in our country. Use television, newspapers, magazines, and blogs. Get both sides, conservative and liberal, Republican and Democrat, the good, the bad, and the ugly. We won’t discuss and debate current events in class, so why focus on them now?

1. Daily attention to the political affairs of our nation will pay major dividends to you when the class gets underway in January 2016, because by then, you will already be generally familiar with the way the branches of government are organized, and how elected and appointed officials are to conduct the affairs of their offices. There is a presidential election in November 2016, eighteen months away, but the campaigning has already begun. Pay attention to the candidates, their supporters, and the terminology that goes with these campaigners. When we discuss our government and how it works in class, you will be able to participate comfortably and intelligently.
2. In both verbal and written class participation, you will be able to cite examples from the daily news as evidence to prove the point you are making.

**THE TEXTBOOK**

The Challenge of Democracy, twelfth edition, by Kenneth Janda is your textbook. This course is reading intensive, as are many college courses. Start reading NOW! Why? This one semester class will meet only 52 times, meaning that there is no way that we will be able to discuss in class everything you will be responsible for knowing. As you read, make hand written notes to which you will be allowed to refer on certain quizzes and tests. During class make additional notes. I will ask to see your notes from time to time. My lecture notes will be available in January on my website, but do not substitute those for your own reading and note taking.