**GLOSSARY OF POLITICAL TERMS for *Animal Farm***

*Politics -*

1. The theory or practice of government or administration.

a. The science or study of government and the state.

b. Activities or policies associated with government, esp. those concerning the organization and administration of a state, or part of a state, and with the regulation of relationships between states.

2 a.  The political ideas, beliefs, or commitments of a particular individual, organization, etc.

3.  Actions concerned with the acquisition or exercise of power, status, or authority.

*absolutism* - the principle or the exercise of complete and unrestricted power in government.

*altruism* - sacrifice of the self for the welfare of others.

*amendment* - an alteration of or addition to a bill, constitution, etc.

*autocracy -* a government where uncontrolled or unlimited authority is in the hands of one person.

*bureaucracy* - officials using fixed rules and a hierarchy of authority characterized by red tape, delay or inaction

*cabinet* - a council advising a sovereign, president, etc.

*capitalism* - an economic system in which investment in and ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange of wealth is made and maintained by private individuals.

*caucus* - a closed meeting of a group of persons belonging to the same political party or faction usually to select candidates or to decide on party policy

*collectivism* - centralized control of the social and economic elements of a society, especially the means of production.

*coup d’etat* – Sudden and often violent overthrow of a government

*disinformation* - false information deliberately and often covertly spread (as by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.

*egalitarian* - characterized by the belief in the equality of all men.

*fascism* - a totalitarian governmental system that emphasizes nationalism and racism and is led by a dictator.

*free speech* - the right of people to express their opinions publicly without governmental interference, subject to the laws against libel, incitement to violence or rebellion, etc.

*kleptocracy* – cynical term used to describe highly corrupt governments where politicians, bureaucrats and their protected friends exploit and sell national resources and assets – rule by a thief or a group of thieves.

*Machiavellian* – adjective to describe manipulative and cynical political activity where morals and principles have little account.

*oligarchy* – a form of government where rule is by a few and in their own interest.

*plutocracy* - the rule of the wealthy.

*propaganda* - false or misleading information to promote a partisan and unbalanced picture. It is a deliberate attempt to change people’s views on a given topic through the use of deception and confusion, rather than persuasion and understanding.

*revisionist* - Originally, it was a reference to the reexamination of the accepted “facts” and interpretations of history, with a genuine desire to correct history for the purpose of education. However, “revisionism” has become a term used to indicate that the history has been intentionally reinterpreted to reflect a view that is not accurate in order to support an agenda.

*spin* - a political agenda, twisting truths or facts into something that "proves" your point of view.

*totalitarian* – a government that wishes to subordinate the individual to the state by controlling not only all political and economic matters, but also by seeking to control the attitudes, values and beliefs of its population

*tyranny* - arbitrary and unrestrained abuse of power.

Useful political phrases and terms for discussing and writing about *Animal Farm*

The creation of élites

Establishment of a scapegoat on whom to blame all problems

Distortion of the truth

Solicitation of support

Canvassing for support

Manipulation of public sentiment

Cynical reward system

Exploitation of impressionable minds

Brainwashing

Sabotaging of public meetings

Indoctrination

Making expedient decisions

Self-preservation

Food as a political weapon