

Required Textbooks:

1. *American Government: Stories of a Nation* by Scott F. Abernathy and Karen Waples

ISBN-13: 978-1319195366 OR ISBN-10: 1319195369

Make sure the cover says "For AP Course"

*This is fairly new, and therefore a little expensive, because the course was just redesigned three years ago. If you start looking now, you may be able to find a cheaper, used version online. Ask students from this year's class.

2. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, fifth edition* Edited by Ann G. Sernow and Everett C. Ladd

ISBN-13: 978-1930398160 OR ISBN-10: 1930398166

*The Fifth edition is a little less expensive, especially if you find a used version. Be sure you get the 5th edition so that your articles and page numbers match up. I use the one with the American Flag on it.

Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!

This is a rigorous and fast-paced course. It is important that you are aware of the year long commitment you are about to undertake as a student of this course. Please make sure to read the summer assignment completely and carefully so that you will be ready to fully and successfully participate when class begins for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

AP GAP requires different thinking and writing skills. Writing for this course requires the understanding and analysis of abstract concepts and principles. You will depend less on the study of chronology of facts and events and more on your interpretation of those facts and events. Throughout the year, you will: gain a deeper understanding of how the government works, become aware of politics in general and have an opportunity to explore your political self, and where you fit into our political world.

Everything that we will study relates to how politics and government works in modern America. Accordingly, knowledge of current political and governmental affairs will significantly help you to understand the things we study, and will, in fact, be necessary to succeed in the course. If you know what is going on in the country with respect to politics and government, the content will be more interesting and you may do better in the course. However, also understand that this is not the course in which we debate political beliefs and current, hot-button topics. Rather, we work to understand the events that led to the issues we see around us everyday and discuss whether current actions and decisions fit with past practice, or in accordance with the Constitution.

1. The first part of your summer work requires you to follow major current events by doing at least one of the following over the course of AT LEAST 2 weeks.

- Read either the print or online version of a major newspaper. (NY Times, LA Times, Wall Street Journal, etc)
- Watch a national/international news broadcast (CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, PBS, ABC, CBS, NBC) – not a local news broadcast. Nightly News with Lester Holt at 6:30 on channel 30 would be an example of the national broadcast.
- Read major news magazines or political journals (Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report, The Economist, The Atlantic, The New Yorker)
- Watch daily or weekly news/current affairs programming (Hardball, Meet the Press, Face the Nation, This Week, etc.)

During the period you choose to complete this, keep a current events journal. Day and date of each day and an overview of important events (can be bullet points, but with enough detail so you understand the issue.) At the end of each week, type a minimum of two paragraphs about the major event or events in American government and/or politics from the past week.

- In the first paragraph, you should describe the event or events, providing some detail so that you can discuss it with the class later on.
- In the second paragraph, you should analyze the significance of it/them. Explain why it is important. You should state any opinions, thoughts, or analysis that you might have about it/them.
- You must thoroughly discuss at least one particularly important issue each week.

Your journal should deal with issues that are of significant importance to American politics and government. Such things include what the president is up to, what Congress is debating or legislation that they are passing, constitutional issues or major federal court decisions, debates over political issues in America, international crises or foreign policy issues that affect the US or that our government must deal with, etc.

You should provide a Bibliography for the sources you used in Chicago format. Remember, Noodletools can help you do this correctly.

2. The second part of your summer work is meant to gain some exposure to Landmark Supreme Court Cases. Many of these cases are required by the College Board, but I've included others that, although not "required," you must know to use in relation to a required case.

For this part of the assignment, you should define and explain the importance for each of the Landmark Supreme Court Cases listed below. You may create notecards, notes in your binder, etc. but be prepared to turn them in on the first day of school. (This is not an all-encompassing explanation but will be your study aides later on. So provide some detail but don't go beyond what would equal a notecard.) You can use your textbook, oyez.org, landmarkcases.org, billofrightsinsitute.org/ or the link that pops up with each case. Maybe break them down into groups of 5 to complete over time. It looks a little overwhelming, but you will know these by May 2022!

Required Cases:

- *Marbury v Madison*, 1803
- *McCulloch v Maryland*, 1819
- *Brown v Board of Education*, 1954
- *Gideon v Wainwright*, 1963
- *Tinker v Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 1969
- *Roe v Wade*, 1973
- *United States v Lopez*, 1995
- *New York Times Company v U.S.*, 1971
- *Baker v Carr*, 1961
- *Engel v Vitale*, 1962
- *Wisconsin v Yoder*, 1972
- *Schenck v United States*, 1919
- *McDonald v Chicago*, 2010
- *Shaw v Reno*, 1993
- *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, 2010

Additional Cases You Will Need to Know:

- *WORCESTER V GEORGIA*, 1832
- *PLESSY V FERGUSON*, 1896
- *MAPP V OHIO*, 1961
- *GRISWOLD V CONNECTICUT*, 1965
- *LOVING V VIRGINIA*, 1967
- *US V NIXON*, 1974
- *BUCKLEY V VALEO*, 1976
- *TEXAS V JOHNSON*, 1989
- *DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA V HELLER*, 2008
- *OBERGEFELL V HODGES*, 2015
- *TIMBS V INDIANA*, 2019

In my most serious teacher-voice: *Both parts of this assignment are **due the first day of school. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Failure to **fully** complete these tasks will result in removal from the course, per school policy. Remember, this is a college level class, and will be treated as such. If you are not prepared to work hard and think at higher levels, perhaps this isn't the correct placement. This is also a class in which attendance is very important. By the end of the first marking period, attendance records and work completion/ethic will be evaluated. If there are excessive absences or missing assignments, you may be asked to withdraw from the course.*

I am happy to have you enrolled in this course and look forward to the year ahead! This is going to be great preparation for what you will experience in college, and help you develop an understanding of how the government works, or doesn't work at times!

See you soon!!!!

Mrs. Nardine