

AP Government
Ms. Bowen

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Step 1: Look over the syllabus & class contract and determine if you are interested in the course.

Step 2: Complete questionnaire and print out your transcript.

- 1) Read the questionnaire and respond.
 - a. Read the questions carefully.
 - b. Please respond honestly.
- 2) Print out your transcript.

Step 3: Complete Writing Sample

- assignment should be typed with 1 inch margins, double spaced (text only – not your heading), and 12 point font

Step 4: Turn in your completed questionnaire, transcript, and writing sample ONLY. They should be stapled together in that order:

This will be DUE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14th to G216
You can always turn in your work early! ☺

Step 5: Sign-up for AP Government when you are making your course selections 2/6 -2/10 on Aeries.

If you have any questions, please stop by G216 before school, or email me at amimulligan@gmail.com

TURN IN CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Questionnaire
- ☐ Transcript
- ☐ Writing Sample

ALL OF THIS SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF in G216 by:

Tuesday, February 14 by 3:30pm

Late submission will look poorly on your work ethic and desire to be in the course!

GOOD LUCK!

Economics/ AP Government Syllabus

Ms. Bowen: Room G216

Expectations:

Welcome!

AP Government is a rigorous course; follow the syllabus closely to ensure that you are giving yourself the best shot at succeeding in this course.

The purpose of this class is to prepare you for the AP Government exam in *May 2017*. Be prepared that this course requires you to do college level reading and writing, in content as well as in volume.

By May you will be expected to fulfill the following skills needed to pass the exam:

- Demonstrate understanding of major course concepts, policies, and institutions
- Apply skills of comparison and interpretation in addition to factual recall
- Define concepts and explain or interpret content across all course topics
- Analyze political relationships and evaluate policy changes using examples from the course to support the argument or response

Note: I am your teacher, my purpose is to teach you and guide you through your education. If there is something that is prohibiting you from learning your best, please be sure to tell me.

This course is a graduation requirement:

- If you fail first semester you will have to take night school or adult-ed during 2nd semester to graduate
- If you fail second semester, you will not be able to graduate in June so please be vigilant about your progress!

Bring to class everyday:

- Binder
- Binder paper
- Spiral Notebook or composition book
- Pen/pencils
- Textbook
- Self-confidence and a hunger to learn! ☺

Grading:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Classwork/Homework/Participation:</i>
20%<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At home reading• Analysis questions• Vocabulary flash cards• cell phone use• bathroom use• etiquette/respectfulness | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Assessments: 70%</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple choice test (15-20 questions) every Thursday• Free Response (written test) every Friday• <i>Final (Mock Exam): 10%</i> |
|--|--|

- 60 multiple choice AP questions
- 4 free response questions

Late work:

- If an assignment is late; the highest grade that can be achieved is 50%
- If a project is turned in late, 20% will be docked from the project for each day it is late
 - A project turned in 1 day late, the highest grade you can receive is an 80%

Helpful tips:

- Be organized
 - You lose your papers, you lose points! Binders are so helpful!
- Be on time please
- Avoid long bathroom breaks
- Prioritize your education over your phone/social media 😊
- Know the deadlines
- Finish work early if you can, procrastination has final consequences!
- Avoid penalties on late project by turning them in early
- Really think about what you can do to succeed and accomplish your goals

AP Exam:

60 multiple choice questions (45 minutes)

4 written responses (100 minutes)

In order to pass the exam, you will need to remember facts and interpret and analyze political information. You will have to apply your own knowledge to discuss various aspects of government functions.

Each week will follow a routine to prepare you for your test:

Monday: Lecture/definitions

Tuesday: Lecture/definitions

Wednesday: Media (current events, presidential news, mock congress)

Thursday: Multiple choice test

Friday: Free response test

Throughout the AP Government course you will be responsible for going through each of the following units:

1. Constitutional Underpinnings of American Government

- Considerations that influenced the formulation/adoption of the Constitution
- Separation of powers
- Checks and balances
- Federalism
- Theories of democratic government

(Objectives: understand the historical context to which the US Constitution was written; explore the complexities of government from the adoption of the federal system and how it has evolved to modern day)

2. Political Beliefs and Behaviors

- a. Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders
- b. Processes by which citizens learn about politics
- c. The nature, sources and consequences of public opinion
- d. The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life
- e. Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

(Objectives: define and explore the origins and effects of public opinion; review the lack of voter turnout/lack of political participation)

3. Political parties, interest groups and mass media

- a. Political parties/elections
 - i. Functions
 - ii. Organization
 - iii. Development
 - iv. Effects on the political process
 - v. Electoral laws and systems
- b. Interest groups, including political actions committees
 - i. Range of interests represented
 - ii. Activities of interest groups
 - iii. Effects of interest groups
 - iv. Unique characteristics/roles
- c. The mass media
 - i. Functions/structures of news media
 - ii. Impact of news media
 - iii. News media and consequences

(Objectives: evaluate how the two-party system has evolved and the intricacies surrounding American elections/campaigns; survey how the media effects government and politics and how government seeks to effect the media)

4. Institutions of national government

- a. Major formal/informal institutional arrangements of power
- b. Relationships among these four institutions/balances of power
- c. Linkage institutions
 - i. Public opinion/voters
 - ii. Interest groups
 - iii. Political parties
 - iv. Media
 - v. State/local gov't

(Objectives: Explain the framers' understanding of the role of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches; evaluate the intent and effects of bureaucracy; explain how the courts, particularly the Supreme Court came to play a powerful role in forming public policy)

5. Civil rights/civil Liberties

- a. Development of civil liberties/civil rights (judicial interpretation)
- b. Knowledge of substantive rights/liberties
- c. Impact of 14th Amendment

(Objectives: Examine the role of the Bill of Rights and further amendments related to the concept of democratic rule of the majority with particular attention to the tension between majority rule and minority rights)

6. Public Policy

- a. In a federal system
- b. Formation of policy agendas
- c. Role of institutions in enacting policy
- d. Role of bureaucracy and courts in implementing policy
- e. Linkage institutions
 - i. Political institutions
 - ii. Federalism
 - iii. Political parties
 - iv. Interest groups
 - v. Public opinion
 - vi. Elections
 - vii. Policy networks

(Objectives: examine both the distinctiveness and size of the federal government bureaucracy; analyze the role of bureaucracy throughout history)

Doing well on the AP US Government & Politics exam is difficult. The AP US Government exam is one of the toughest AP exams out there. For some perspective: on the 2014 exam, only 11.9% of students scored a 5, with 12.4% scoring a 4, 26.5% scoring a 3, 24.6% scoring a 2 and another 24.6% scoring a 1. That means that almost half of all students taking the AP US Government & Politics exam got a 1 or a 2. ***But fear not, hard work in this class, along with persistent and time-efficient studying will help you get the best score possible!!! ☺ You can do well on the test, and commitment to doing your best is the key!***

Helpful tips to keep in mind!:

1. Read, read, read. Use your course books and supplementary texts. Just because you've done well in your course at school doesn't mean you'll remember important details when it comes time to take the AP exam. So review your course materials as much as you can—and don't skip

readings during the year! You'll find that the specifics contained in the text will help you fill in your free response question answers.

2. Practice, practice, practice .Take as many practice tests as possible. Topics, and variations on questions, are repeated year after year. Also, work with classmates. Grade their free response answers, and vice-versa. Familiarizing yourself with what the AP graders are looking for will help you perfect your own answers come exam time.

3. Know the value of each question. The AP US Government exam is broken into two sections—multiple-choice questions and free response questions. Each section is worth 50 percent of your exam grade. Within the free response section there are four questions; each question is worth 12.5% of your exam grade.

4. Know your terminology. As mentioned in the previous tip, the vocabulary mentioned in the prompt is key to answering the question correctly. But you will also need to be facile with AP US Government & Politics terminology in order to provide full, knowledgeable answers to the free response questions.

5. Remember that you're not writing a five-paragraph essay. You do not need to write full introduction and conclusion paragraphs that repeat information you cover elsewhere. Stick to clear topic sentences and paragraphs responding to each section of the prompt and you will do well

6. Know your material. As mentioned above, before the exam be sure to thoroughly review your course books and supplementary texts. Even though you've done well in your course at school doesn't mean you'll remember important details when it comes time to take the AP exam. So review your course materials as much as you can—and don't skip readings during the year.

7. Improve upon your weaknesses. As you review for the AP US Government & Politics exam, take note of the sections or concepts that you have the most difficulty with. Drill these sections most intensely in the days before the exam. Have trouble differentiating between substantive and procedural rights? Make flashcards. Don't quite understand how the Electoral College works? Neither do most American voters!

(YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPETE THIS, JUST REVIEW IT)

AP GOVERNMENT DISCLOSURE CONTRACT

Please fill out the following information accurately and clearly. List your name as you would like to be called. All seating charts and letters home will be based on this information.

Your name: _____

Street: _____

City, state, & zip: _____

Parents' last name: _____

Birth date: _____

Your email address (print clearly!) _____

Carefully read each of the following terms. Initial each item in the space provided. When finished, sign and date the contract.

_____ I have read the course syllabus and understand that every clause on the syllabus pertains to me; I know

_____ I understand that this is a college course with college-level expectations, and I understand that my work will be held to a college-level standard.

_____ I understand that the teacher is available and willing to help me before and after school by appointment (except on Friday).

_____ The objective of this course is to prepare me to pass the AP Government test.

_____ I will read the text as assigned and I will complete the reading questions, assignments, and projects.

_____ I will not cut this class to avoid taking tests or essays.

_____ I will make up missed work on the next school day and I understand the penalties for work marked late.

_____ I will take notes on class lectures if I need clarification, I will produce essays legible to the teacher, I will mark the correct forms on test answer sheets, I will complete the required outside readings.

_____ I will behave appropriately in class, treating the teacher and my fellow students with respect. I understand that losing all of my preparation points will affect my grade for the quarter.

_____ I understand that the use of iPods or other MP3 players, cell phones, PDAs or other handheld computers will have a negative impact on my grade.

_____ I understand the standards for academic and participation grades, especially those that pertain to tardiness and absences.

_____ I understand that this class fills a graduation or elective requirement and that I may need to remediate any part of the course should I fail.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Writing Sample

- Analyzing the study of history (1-2 pages)
- assignment should be typed with 1 inch margins, double spaced (text only – not your heading), and 12 point font

This assignment will require you to think about **why and how we study US Government in 2017**. I would like you to take some time with this question, and really think about the significance of government in our modern world. Feel free to research other historians' points of view (make sure to cite them if you use any of their ideas)! Think about: the role government plays in political, economic, and social issues today; the different aspects of government we can focus on; and the different methods that we can learn about and interpret government.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name		ID #		Grade Level	
How many AP classes do you plan on taking next year, including this one? Please list the courses.					
Have you ever taken an AP class before? If yes, how did you feel about the AP program? If no, what interests you about the program?					
What, in AP Government, are you most interested in?					
What are your current study habits? How well do you think those habits will work in an AP course?					
What extracurricular activities are you involved in? What is your plan for balancing the responsibilities of these commitments and an AP class?					

