

Name: _____

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Advanced Placement US Government and Politics 2023-2024

Mr. Smith

Summer Assignment

Welcome to AP Government and Politics!

The AP U.S. Government & Politics course provides a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States.

Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

The information presented and studied in this class will help you better understand the country in which you live, while also assisting you in becoming a more informed citizen.

This course moves at a rapid pace, with many topics covered throughout the school year. Students are expected to work not only in class, but also on their own in order to complete the curriculum in advance of the AP Exam in early May. **Self-motivation is key!**

The summer assignment will help to prepare you for the course. The 9 foundational documents & 15 required Supreme Court cases included in the assignment are highlighted by the College Board as essential documents that will be used throughout the school year to help us understand American government, complete assignments, answer free-response questions (FRQ's), and more.

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The documents are as follows:

1. The Declaration of Independence
2. The Articles of Confederation
3. The US Constitution
4. Federalist Paper 10
5. Federalist Paper 51
6. Federalist Paper 70
7. Federalist Paper 78
8. Brutus 1
9. Letter from a Birmingham Jail by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Read each of the documents (they are readily available online) and complete the attached chart for each. For the foundational docs, select what you believe to be three of the most important ideas contained within the document. Then give a word-for-word quote that represents each idea, an explanation in your own words, and how or why this idea is relevant to our modern world. Please be aware that there is no “exact” answer and responses will vary from one student to another, but if you’re doing it right, certain major concepts from the documents should be included to show understanding and comprehension. I will be assessing you on your ability to recognize and explain what is truly important and express it concisely in your own words. If you aren’t a strong reader and you find this assignment and the sources upon which it is based exceedingly difficult to comprehend, then you might want to reconsider your placement in this course. You certainly do not have to know everything - but it is vital that you are able to read for understanding so that you will “come to know” the source material.

Since it’s a “summer assignment”, this packet should be done over the summer and is due on the first day of school. Assuming the worst of the pandemic is behind us and we will once again be returning for normal in-person learning in the fall, this assignment should be printed out and hand-written. It will only be accepted in typed form if the situation changes and we are in virtual learning.

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AP US Government & Politics students should be thoroughly familiar with 15 Supreme Court Cases for the AP exam. Not only should you be familiar with the final decisions, you should be familiar with the reasons for the majority opinion and how they impacted American society. According to the College Board, these cases are essential content in college courses and in-depth analysis will help you gain the basis needed for future courses in politics.

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

Please contact the guidance office with any questions you might have.

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Document 1 of 9

Document Title: _____

Author: _____

Big Idea	What was Said (Direct Quote)	What it Means (Your Own Words)	Real World Significance
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Author: _____

Big Idea	What was Said (Direct Quote)	What it Means (Your Own Words)	Real World Significance
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Document Title: _____

Author: _____

Big Idea	What was Said (Direct Quote)	What it Means (Your Own Words)	Real World Significance
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Supreme Court Cases

In the table below, fill in the necessary information regarding landmark Supreme Court Cases in our nation's history.

Name of Court Case	Year	Details of the Case -What happened to get the case to the Supreme Court? -What is each side arguing?	Ruling of the Supreme Court and Constitutional Principle/Connection -Which side won and what was the vote count? -What Constitutional or legal principle is involved? (Examples: Federalism, 1 st Amendment, Right to Privacy, etc.)
Marbury v. Madison			

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McCulloch v. Maryland			
Brown v. Board of Education			

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Date: _____

Gideon v. Wainwright			
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District			

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Roe v. Wade			
United States v. Lopez			

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

New York Times Company v. United States			
Baker v. Carr			

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Engel v. Vitale			
Wisconsin v. Yoder			

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Schenck v. United States			
McDonald v. Chicago			

Name: _____

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Shaw v. Reno			
Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission			