

ADVANCED PLACEMENT US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2019-2020
SUMMER ASSIGNMENT
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WELCOME TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS!

This is a great time to delve deeply into the study of our government and US political culture. This is not an easy class; however, we believe all students can find a level of success by working hard, completing all assignments, and asking good questions. Together we can encourage one another, challenge one another, and most importantly, learn from one another.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP US Government and Politics will have at its core an approach that encourages, entices, and engages students in the study of political institutions and processes of American government. Fundamental to your understanding will be assignments using a wide range of material from textbooks, print media, TV and films as well as primary sources. Using these resources will allow you to apply classwork to real world events. You will be expected to think critically in reading and writing assignments. Be sure to check out the AP College Board website; you will find some valuable information regarding the AP US Government and Politics course.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS:

- I. There was plenty of news coverage over the last year regarding the 2016 election. There are a few terms that you should know relate directly to nominating a candidate and ultimately electing a candidate. One in particular, regards the Electoral College. We will cover the others in depth in class.

The Electoral College is particularly interesting and controversial. Its role in determining who becomes our president is significant.

Instructions:

Go to the following History Channel site

Write down at least five new things that you learned about the **Electoral College**

If you have questions about the EC, write those down as well. They will be collected!

<http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/presidential-elections/videos/the-electoral-college>

- II. Read the following *Federalist Papers** and complete the “4-square” sheets attached. *The Federalist Papers* provide the foundation of much of our representative form of democracy. Be sure to print the 4-squares; necessary in order to turn in. Might be a good idea to print the documents as well!

*Okay...just a heads up! These were written early in the history of our country by the Framers of the Constitution. They are not easy to read, do take it slowly and do your best. Trust us, people will be VERY impressed that you are reading these documents!

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa10.htm>

<http://www.constitution.org/fed/federa78.htm>

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed51.asp

- III.** On October 24, the newest edition of the Princeton Review *Cracking the AP US Government and Politics Exam 2018* will be available to ship. Be sure to pre-order it (either on Amazon or Barnes and Noble) in time to bring it to class when it ships.
- IV.** **US Constitution** is available on this site, along with plenty of other good information. Take a look at it. Know the first ten amendments by the first week of school and earn some bonus points! http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/bill_of_rights.html
- V.** *Please read only pages 2-42* in this link. The terms that you must identify are located on the last page of summer reading assignment. Keep those terms in your notebook. Available for download at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1B8xD5TRCCwYkREeE1xSHRaV0k?usp=sharing>

***Federalist #78* by Alexander Hamilton**

<p>The topic of this reading is the judiciary. Why does Hamilton believe that a national judicial branch is important?</p>	<p>In your own words, describe something new that you learned, and what you would like to know more about.</p>
<p>Was there anything that surprised you about this reading? Be specific. When you are using passages from the reading, please use quotations. Is this reading an editorial piece or a news report?</p>	<p>Use this space to write the definitions of any words that are unfamiliar to you.</p>

If you run out of space, you may continue on back.

***Federalist #10* by James Madison**

<p>Identify to the best of your ability, three main points that James Madison is making in <i>Federalist #10</i>.</p>	<p>In your own words, describe something new that you learned, and what you would like to know more about.</p>
<p>Was there anything that surprised you about this reading? Be specific. When you are using passages from the reading, please use quotations.</p>	<p>In three to four short sentences explain what you believe is the main focus of this reading. Be sure to include concepts that you had not known about or understood before this reading. <i>Hint: factions; what are they and what does Madison believe about them?</i></p>

If you run out of space, you may continue on back! Please be ready to discuss this reading!

***Federalist #51* by James Madison**

<p>To the best of your ability, explain what Madison might mean by “<i>Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.</i>” Your explanation doesn’t have to be based on the reading...just explain what you think that phrase means.</p>	<p>In your own words, describe something new that you learned, and what you would like to know more about.</p>
<p>When you are using passages from the reading, please use quotations. In this reading, there are a few references to the separation of powers of our government. Select two quotations and describe what you they mean.</p>	<p>In three to four short sentences explain what you believe is the main focus of this reading. Be sure to include concepts that you had not known about or understood before this reading. <i>Hint: why is a separation of power so essential?</i> Use your own words!</p>

If you run out of space, you may continue on back! Please be ready to discuss this reading.

The following terms are taken from the first chapter of *The Challenge of Democracy*; be sure to define and understand the significance of the following terms:

- The 3 objectives of government (which are the most controversial? Why?)
- Thomas Hobbes/ *Leviathan*
- Order
- Liberalism
- Communism
- John Locke/ *Two Treatises on Government*
- Public goods
- Karl Marx
- Socialism
- Totalitarianism
- “Inherent conflict”
- Conservatives
- Liberals
- Libertarianism
- The Four Freedoms
- Police power
- Political equality
- Social equality
- Equality of opportunity
- Equality of outcome
- Rights
- Political ideology
- Democratic socialism
- Capitalism
- Laissez-faire
- Anarchism
- Natural rights
- Populism
- Social Contract