

Information about the course and information regarding summer work:

Advanced Placement Government and Politics is a course that offers motivated students the opportunity to earn **college credit** if they score well enough on the national test offered by the college board on **Monday, May 4, 2020**.

What does it mean to earn college credit? Most liberal arts colleges require students to take a course in United States government. This course is certified to meet that requirement so long as the student scores high enough on the national test to earn the college credit. The test is scored on a scale from 1-5. Most colleges require a **3** or higher on the national test to earn credit.

This is not a history course, although history is infused throughout the study. This course examines what Thomas Jefferson called "The American Mind"; a unique set of values and beliefs that unite our diverse population.

Throughout the summer and upcoming school year you will be introduced to the concepts, theories, and philosophies that form and drive United States government. Additionally, you will engage in an **intensive** study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes for making, enforcing, and interpreting policy. Along the way you will be required to commit large numbers of **terms, laws, amendments, and court cases** to memory. You will learn how to write concise, well-supported Free Response Questions or FRQs using all of the knowledge you have gained.

Students of AP Government must **follow the news on a daily basis**. The most successful students in this class are those that learn how to relate what is happening in Washington, to concepts and events from our studies. To do so effectively you must be properly educated in the history, function, and application of the Constitution. Together we will accomplish that task. I recommend you get your news from a variety of sources and avoid relying on trending topics and emotional headlines as your sole source of information. We have witnessed the rise of a phenomenon known as "Fake News". As students of government you will have to work extra hard to find fact based accounts and not some biased rant that is fulfilling someone's agenda. I will expect you to come to class each day knowing the major stories of the day. Current events knowledge is critical for success in composing quality Free Response Questions and for applying your understanding to "real life" situations occurring today. This class is for **engaged, active learners** who enjoy sharing their own views and can

respectfully listen to those whom they may disagree with. Civil discourse is the norm. All opinions will be heard and respected within our intelligent and informed dialogue.

About the Required Summer Work:

In order to prepare adequately for the May test it is necessary for you to complete some work over the summer. This enables us to move quickly into our studies once the new school year begins.

Both the textbook and the summer assignments will be accessed in Google Classroom. In September I will provide each of you with a hard copy of the text once the add/drop period has ended.

To get started:

1. Go to classroom.google.com.
2. At the top, click Add + > **Join class**.



3. In the box, enter the class code **sr7avwf** and click **Join**.



Once you join our Google Classroom page, you will find the materials necessary to complete and submit the summer work.