

## AP US Government and Politics 2023-2024 School Year Introductory Information and Summer Assignments

### Course Description:

The Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics course is designed to teach the foundation, organization and implementation of the American governmental system in order to help the student gain a better understanding and appreciation of the government and political philosophy of the United States of America. This is a rigorous course modeled on a collegiate level political science and government course. The yearlong course integrates economics principles of modern theory and systems, designed to deepen the student's understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and world in which they live and learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues. The class will meet three (3) days each week following the block scheduling format for high school courses. Students should possess strong reading and writing skills and be willing to devote substantial time to study and the completion of class assignments. Emphasis is placed on analytical writing, class discussion, use of primary sources and critical reading. The course culminates with the national AP Government and Politics of the United States Exam which **all students are required to take.**

### Required Textbooks (BUY THEM ASAP!)

1. *American Politics Today*, Fifth Edition by William T. Bianco and David T. Canon (USED OR NEW). 13 digit ISBN: 978-039-328-3594
2. *Amsco Advanced Placement Edition: United States Government & Politics*. by David Wolfford (USED or NEW). ISBN 978-1-6903-8416-8
3. AP US Government and Politics Exam Fee: \$135, could increase slightly.

### Summer Assignments: All are DUE Wednesday August 16, 2023 (First Day of School)

### Required Reading from the Following Primary Source Documents:

**Print, read and annotate** the two excerpts from the following works in their entirety (around 17-18 pages combined). Once you have completed the assigned reading and annotating, read the essay prompt below and **type** a 5 paragraph essay in response to it (MLA Format, Double Spaced, Times New Roman Size 12 Font, 2 ½ -3 pages typed, include the prompt at the top of the essay document) citing or referencing each of the assigned readings at a minimum of two (2) times each.

### [Excerpts from Common Sense by Thomas Paine January 1776](#)

Notes: Thomas Paine wrote his best-selling pamphlet *Common Sense* to advocate for the American colonial separation from British rule under the monarchy of King George III. Paine was an advocate of the Enlightenment values of separation of church and state, democratic-republican political models, and use of reason. Among those considered to

be Founding Fathers, Paine is considered to be particularly radical, especially for some of his views on organized religion and his later support for the French Revolution.

### [Excerpts from Federalist Paper No. 10 \(James Madison\) November 1787](#)

Notes: Following the drafting of the US Constitution in the Summer of 1787 (also known as the Critical Period) at the Philadelphia Convention, public debate ensued in print on whether or not the individual 13 States should ratify (approve) the new Constitution. Two factions were formed, the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, to argue for or against the ratification of the new Constitution. The Federalists, led by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, wrote a series of 85 published anonymous essays under the pseudonym Publius arguing in favor of the new Constitution and responding to criticisms against it. The Anti-Federalists, led by Patrick Henry and George Mason, argued against the new Constitution because they believed it would give the Federal (or national) government too much power.

#### **Essay Prompt:**

Discuss how Thomas Paine and James Madison address the political role of the people in the work of government. Are there any potential dangers when factions (or political parties) form in a democratic-republican nation or society? In your view, do the potential risks of populist factionalism in a democratic-republican nation or society justify restricting people's participation in government?