

**Required Textbooks:**

1. *American Government: Stories of a Nation* by Scott F. Abernathy and Karen Waples  
**ISBN-13: 978-1319195366 OR ISBN-10: 1319195369**  
Make sure the cover says "For AP Course"

\*This is fairly new, and therefore a little expensive, because the course was just redesigned three years ago. If you start looking now, you may be able to find a cheaper, used version online. Ask students from this year's class too.

2. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, fifth edition* Edited by Ann G. Sernow and Everett C. Ladd  
**ISBN-13: 978-1930398160 OR ISBN-10: 1930398166**

\*The Fifth edition is a little less expensive, especially if you find a used version. Be sure you get the 5th edition so that your articles and page numbers match up. I use the one with the American Flag on it.

**Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics!**

This is a rigorous and fast-paced course. It is important that you are aware of the year long commitment you are about to undertake as a student of this course. Please make sure to read the summer assignment completely and carefully so that you will be ready to fully and successfully participate when class begins for the upcoming school year.

AP GAP requires different thinking and writing skills. You will depend less on the study of chronology of facts and events and more on your interpretation of those facts and events. Throughout the year, you will: gain a deeper understanding of how the government works, become aware of politics in general and have an opportunity to explore your political self, and where you fit into the political world. However, also understand, that this is not the course in which we debate political beliefs and current, hot-button topics. Rather, we work to understand the events that led to the issues we see around us everyday and discuss whether current actions and decisions fit with past practice, or in accordance with the Constitution.

As part of the requirements for the course, you must also obtain a three ring binder. It should be 1 ½" to keep all work in from now until the test in May 2024. You will not have separate sections so dividers are not necessary. **All** work will be kept in this binder: notes, readings, handouts, homework. Even if you complete the work electronically, you are responsible for printing it out and getting it into your binder. There will be graded binder checks and **this is not negotiable!**

I can not stress how important the vocabulary is for this course! It will be impossible to make sense of what we are studying if you do not know the words we are using! The AP GAP test also focuses heavily on knowing the terms and using them in various scenarios and situations around you. Therefore, vocab will be the bulk of your summer work.

1. Although I am giving you all the vocabulary for the entire course, you will be required to make a notecard with definition for each of the terms in Unit 1. You should obtain some type of container in which you can keep these cards and add to it as the year progresses.
  - On each notecard, put the term on one side and write a complete definition on the back.
  - There will be a vocabulary quiz by the end of the first week of school. (The quiz will not include all of them! I will give more exact study requirements when we get back from summer break!)
2. The second part of your summer work is meant to gain some exposure to Landmark Supreme Court Cases. Many of these cases are required by the College Board, but I've included others that, although not "required," you must know to use in relation to a required case.

For this part of the assignment, you should define and explain the importance for each of the Landmark Supreme Court Cases listed below. You should also create notecards for these. (This is not meant to be an all-encompassing explanation but will be your study aides later on. Provide some detail but don't go beyond what would equal a notecard.) You can use your textbook, [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org) [www.landmarkcases.org](http://www.landmarkcases.org), [billofrightsinstitute.org/](http://billofrightsinstitute.org/) or the link that pops up with each case.

#### **Required Cases:**

- *Marbury v Madison*, 1803
- *McCulloch v Maryland*, 1819
- *Brown v Board of Education*, 1954
- *Gideon v Wainwright*, 1963
- *Tinker v Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 1969
- *Roe v Wade*, 1973
- *United States v Lopez*, 1995
- *New York Times Company v U.S.*, 1971
- *Baker v Carr*, 1961
- *Engel v Vitale*, 1962
- *Wisconsin v Yoder*, 1972
- *Schenck v United States*, 1919
- *McDonald v Chicago*, 2010
- *Shaw v Reno*, 1993
- *Citizens United v Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, 2010

It looks a little overwhelming so maybe break them down into groups of 10 or 12 to complete over a couple sittings. However, this should not take you more than a couple of hours, total, over the entire summer!

In my most serious teacher-voice: *Both parts of this assignment are **due the first day of school. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Failure to **fully** complete these tasks will result in a meeting with guidance to discuss your placement in this class. Remember, this is a college level class, and will be treated as such. If you are not prepared to work hard and think at higher levels, perhaps this isn't the correct placement. This is also a class in which attendance is very important. By the end of the first marking period, attendance records and work completion/ethic will be evaluated. If there are excessive absences or missing assignments, you may be asked to withdraw from the course.*

I am happy to have you enrolled in this course and look forward to the year ahead! This is going to be great preparation for what you will experience in college, and/or help you develop an understanding of how the government works, or doesn't work at times!

See you soon!!!!

Mrs. Nardine