

# Marion P Thomas Charter High School

## History Department

### AP U.S. Government and Politics



#### **AP United States Government and Politics Summer 2025 Assignment**

Open to junior and senior students, the AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

#### **Summer Course Assignment**

##### **Part 1: Gilder Lehrman AP History School (50 Points)**

[The online component of the summer assignment includes student registration and attendance for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Introduction to AP Politics and Government.](#)

##### **Key Information about the Gilder Lehrman AP Summer History School**

Virtual course sessions will be held weekly beginning on Monday June 30 and will end on August 4, 2025.

- Classes will be held once a week for six weeks.
- **The deadline to register is June 27, 2025.**
- Classes will begin at 5:00 p.m. ET.
- Classes are 60 minutes in length on Zoom. They will incorporate a combination of lectures, sample exam questions, and time for Q&As.
- Students will need to attend 5 out of the 6 live sessions and complete the feedback survey to earn a certificate of completion, which they will upload in Google Classroom no later than August 30, 2025.

##### **Part 2: Constitutional Framework Analysis [100 Points]**

[Analyze the Constitution and explain the significance of each article, amendment, and key clauses.](#)

##### **Part 3: Student Digital Portfolio**

To prepare for the AP U.S. Government & Politics course, it is important to stay informed about current events, as the course focuses on contemporary political issues. Over the summer, you are expected to create a digital news portfolio that demonstrates your engagement with U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

##### **Instructions: Identify:**

- 10 news articles
- 5 political cartoons
- 5 graphs or charts

##### **Each item must be paired with an analytical summary that:**

- Clearly explains the main content and message
- Discusses its relevance to American politics or policy
- Reflects on why the issue is important

**Additional guidelines:**

- Include a link to each article
- Use ONLY reliable sources, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News & World Report*, or *The Christian Science Monitor*
- Your portfolio must only cover the period from June 2025 through September 2025, with items organized chronologically
- Represent a range of viewpoints on political issues

**Strategies for analytic reading:**

- As you read, be sure to annotate passages and to define unfamiliar words, terms, and concepts.
- Be sure to read every page of each assigned reading.
- Read actively: Do not simply copy down sentences as you read. Stop, think about what you are reading, and write down the main idea that is being expressed in that particular section. Re-read the passage if you are unsure of what the author is attempting to express.
- REMEMBER Read actively and not as a passive couch potato.
- Take notes on the important information as you read each chapter. For example, write down each bold heading as you read and summarize what you read/learn from each section in 1-2 sentences.

**About Plagiarism and AI-Generated Student Work**

Submitted assignments that are suspected of plagiarism or AI-generated will result in zero grade, a referral, and subject to further disciplinary actions and consequences.