



AP United States Government and Politics
Summer Assignment
2026/2027 Academic Year

Google Classroom Code: qki4ob2u

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Welcome to AP US Government and Politics! Throughout this course, students practice the skills used by political scientists by studying data, political writings from the founding era to the present, the structure of the government as established by the Constitution, and constitutional interpretations handed down by the Supreme Court. Students will show mastery of these skills on the exam through a variety of means, including concept application, data analysis, Supreme Court case comparisons, and writing political science arguments. The course prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. As this course covers a substantial amount of material spanning it is imperative that we hit the ground running in September. As such, the following assignments are designed to ensure that you are familiar with both the rigor and pace of the course.

So, what are the assignments? You will complete **three parts** in which you will read excerpts concerning the development and understanding of United States Government and Politics (see below). Each part comprises essays relating to both the required texts. These assignments must be completed by September 5th at 11:59pm and submitted via Google Classroom. **Please note that these are hard deadlines; meaning that if work is not submitted on time, you may be removed from the course.**

Academic Policies and Procedures, including plagiarism:

As an academic community, Canterbury School requires honesty in the completion of all assigned academic work. Violations of the Honor Code include plagiarism or any form of dishonesty in regard to academic assignments. **The submission of work must at all times represent the student's individual thought and efforts. Any use of additional sources (e.g., editors, tutors, material/aids, AI-generative tools [including, but not limited to, ChatGPT and Claude], shared documents, and extra help) is considered a violation of the Canterbury Honor Code unless explicitly stated otherwise by the student's teacher. Questions or concerns about any aspect of this honor code should be directed to the student's teacher.** Students should remember that they can always go to their teachers, advisors, or any other member of the faculty if they are unsure whether or how to properly attribute the work of others. Nevertheless, some students will succumb to the temptation to present another's work as their

own. When there is a suspected incident of academic dishonesty, the teacher will discuss the matter with the department chair. The teacher will also confront the student before further action is taken. Please review the Student Handbook and Canterbury's Honor Code. Canterbury's Honor Code will be enforced in all cases of plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

Final checklist:

- Sign up to our Google Classroom with the code above. You will submit the essays there.
- Purchase the textbook: Abernathy, Scott and Waples, Karen. *American Government: Stories of a Nation*. 1st Edition. New York: Worth Publishers/BFW, 2019. **ISBN: 9781319195366**
- Purchase the course reader: Abernathy, Scott and Waples, Karen. *Document Reader for American Government: Stories of a Nation: For the AP® Course*. New York: Worth Publishers/BFW, 2019. **ISBN: 1319236588**
- Complete Summer Assignment

Do not hesitate to reach out via email if you have any questions as you work through this Summer Assignment.

Assignments (3 Essays)

Guidelines: You will be required to read different excerpts from various authors and foundational documents and provide 3 follow up essays. **The use of AI in any form on this assignment may result in removal from the class as well as immediate (and appropriate) academic and disciplinary action.**

The readings can be found in Google Classroom and are also linked below:

 [Hobbes Excerpt- Leviathan.pdf](#)

 [Locke- Second Treatise of Civil Gov't .pdf](#)

 [Rousseau- Excerpt from The Social Contract.pdf](#)

 [The Constitution of the United States_ A Transcription _ National Archives.pdf](#)

 [Declaration of Independence.pdf](#)

Format: All of your essays must feature an introduction with a strong thesis statement followed by at least four paragraphs that contain numerous facts and details that support your thesis statement, including a counterclaim and rebuttal. Your essays should be at least two pages in length, double-spaced with 12-point font. You must type your essays.

Essay 1

❑ Read the excerpts from Locke, Hobbes, and Rousseau. Then, write an essay that addresses the following prompt:

What similarities and differences can you identify between Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau's view of the natural state of man and the subsequent role of government? Please reference the social contract in your essay.

Essay 2

❑ Read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Then, write an essay that addresses the following prompt:

To what extent do the ideas of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau serve as the intellectual foundation for the constitution of the United States' government? You are encouraged to write about all three. Please provide specific examples in your response.

Essay 3

❑ After completing all readings and the previous two essays, write an essay that addresses the following prompt:

What, do you believe, is the nature of man and the role of government? In other words, what should the government be responsible for? How much power should a government have? Support your answer by referencing at least 3 of the assigned texts. Your answer to this question forms the foundation of not only this class, but of your own relationship to American Politics.