Advanced Placement American Government

This class is an opportunity for you to “get ahead of the game.” In class, you will work at an accelerated rate and learn more than you thought possible about American Government. Below are some of the benefits of taking this class.

♦ Gain the Edge in College Preparation

  o Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques.
  o Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous coursework.
  o Get a head start on exactly the sort of work you will confront in college.

♦ Stand Out in the College Admissions Process

  o Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence
  o Show your willingness to push yourself to the limit.

And best of all...... You Have The Potential of Receiving College Credit As a Sophomore!!
Advanced Placement American Government
Fall 2017

The class that we will be offering next fall, as you know, is Advanced Placement American Government. This class will offer a very strong understanding of American Government. Not only that, it will also bring your reading and writing skills up to new levels. It will give you a good basis of current events knowledge in the world and it offers college credit if you pass the advanced placement exam.

Requirements

1. You must come in willing to work hard. This is a class that will require a lot of reading and writing. This is the best way to prepare you for the AP Test.
2. You need to have a B or better in your current social studies class and have the recommendation of that teacher.
3. This is a one-semester class that will be offered in the fall and spring. The AP test is administered in the spring. As a result, if you take this class in the fall, you will need to attend study sessions in the spring to review material from the class.
4. You will need to keep up with current issues going on in the world. Issues will be discussed daily and will be worked into the curriculum.
5. Be prepared to have fun with politics! Politics can be a very interesting thing and expanding your knowledge of it will only help in your preparation for college. That in itself is a rewarding experience.
6. Be prepared to take the AP exam in the spring. The test is graded on a 1-5 scale. If you are able to score a 3 or better, most colleges will award college credit.

If you would like further information on this program, please come and see me. You can also visit the College Board website at:

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/
Advanced Placement American Government
Class Syllabus
Mrs. Gogola

I. INTRODUCTION: American Government is a survey course that provides students with an analytical approach to government and politics in the United States. With this study, students will grasp an understanding of the institutions, groups and beliefs that comprise the American political system. The study of concepts and analysis of specific examples will provide students with a profound perspective detailing American citizenship.

II. CONTENT STANDARD: Students shall demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of government. They will also have a deep understanding of the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship including how the United States government, as established by the Constitution, embodies the principles and ideals of a democratic republic. They will also look at the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens, non-citizens, and dual citizens. Finally, they will look at the formal and informal structures within which interests groups exercise power. Students will do all of the above stated through the following methods:

1. Examining the foundational documents, including the US Constitution and Bill of Rights relating to citizen rights.
2. Examining existing issues involving rights, roles and status of individuals in relation to the general welfare of society;
3. Analyzing how citizens can affect policy; and
4. Observing, analyzing, and interacting with an actual or simulated governmental process.

III. THE BOOKS: The book we will be using is Government in America. The citation for this book is:


We will also be using a supplemental book which all of your worksheets will be based. It is The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity. The citation for this book is:

IV. THE AP CHALLENGE: Advanced Placement offers to provide high school students the rigors of post-secondary education. Interested students will find a vast array of challenges throughout the 18-week course, including analytical study, research, and the development of fundamental process inherent at the collegiate level. The rewards are:

1. **COLLEGE CREDIT** is awarded based on your scores earned on the College Board exam scheduled for May. A 60 point multiple choice exam during a 45 minute time span which consists of 50% of the exam; and four essay questions in 100 minutes which makes up the other 50% of the exam. The two sections will culminate in a final score that creates one of the scores listed below.

   - 5 = extremely well qualified
   - 4 = well qualified
   - 3 = qualified
   - 2 = possibly qualified
   - 1 = no way

   The college of your choice will dictate how that College Board examination score will be credited in your program. Most colleges provide credit for “3, 4, or 5.”

2. **A RIGOROUS LEARNING EXPERIENCE**—The course AP American Government and Politics will be based on the precedent that one will receive what one deserves. Students are expected to provide at least one hour of study time each day.

3. **AN OPPORTUNITY AT A THE COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT**- This classroom will be run as a college type environment. You will be treated in such a manner.

V. SYLLABI: A course outline is provided for each of the seven units. Course objectives, reading assignments, terminal objectives, analysis of charts, interpretation data from graphs and free-response questions will be part of each syllabus. It is strongly recommended that you keep up with the heavy reading material and complete the study guide. You can see each unit outline below.

VI. CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT: Course material is presented in four formats: Lecture . . . Seminar . . . small group discussion or application, and personal study time. One of our goals is to teach you how to THINK . . . rationally and write analytically.

VII. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Be nice and keep in open mind!

VIII. EVALUATION: There will be at least seven, two-part examinations. Each exam will have a multiple-choice exercise (testing your knowledge of knowledge of important facts, concepts, and theories through the interpretation of political cartoons, charts and graphs) and an essay format (this is the “free response” portion which will ask to identify, interpret and describe information in a written form). The exams will be scored as close to College Board standards as possible. Short “position” papers (not more than three pages) will also be assigned periodically. Constant emphasis will be placed on writing thesis statements and developing analytical essays.
IX. ATTENDANCE: If you miss a class, and are not excused, get a pass. Unexcused absences will facilitate a ZERO for the day and NO MAKE-UP work will be accepted. For excused absences, per school policy, you will get two days for every day that you missed. For example, if you miss Monday, your work is due on Wednesday. TARDIES: Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. If this occurs, you will have one week to make up that tardy. If that tardy is not made up, I will be forced to give you a zero for the day of your third tardy.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE try not to make attendance an issue. It is going to be very difficult for you to be successful if you are not in class!!!

XI. EXTRA CREDIT: With every unit, a list of vocabulary will be given to you. You may complete it for extra credit. You may do a book review for extra credit. You may do up to three and they are worth 15 points apiece. Please see me if you would like to pursue this option. You will need to read a book and provide a one page summary of the book and a one page review of the merits of that book.

XII. HELP: If you need extra help, please do not hesitate to come in and see me. I am always here in the morning or you can make in appointment to see me after school.

XIII. Signatures: Please sign below. This will indicate to me that you and your parents have read and understand this entire document.

_____________________                      __________________________
Student’s Printed Name                      Student’s Signature   Date

__________________________
Parent Signature             Date
A.P. American Government
Unit I
Constitutional Underpinnings of the US Government
14 Days

A. OBJECTIVE: The student will understand how the US government originated; delving into the framers philosophical differences, and eventually arriving at how federalism, the separation of powers and the Bill of Rights, evolved. Basic democratic principles and the development of a republican government will be established.

B. Readings-Please note the dates that they will be discussed. You must be prepared to discuss them on the dates given. If questions are provided, please make sure they are completed before class.
   1. Government in America: Chapter 1 (8-20)
   2. The Inalienable Rights of Man
   3. Government in America: Chapter 2
   4. The American Political Tradition
   5. Government in America: Chapter 3

C. Schedule: Please be advised that the dates are subject to change. I will try to keep with this schedule, but as things arise, adjustments may have to be made.

9/2/14
- Introduction to the class
- Explanation of outlining

9/3/14
- Lecture
  - Chapter 1 DUE today with outline

9/4/14
- Lecture
  1. The Inalienable Rights of Man DUE today with two questions you have about the reading!

9/5/14
- Thesis writing on theories

9/8/14
- Quiz
- Starpower
9/9/14
- Starpower
- Government in America Chapter 2 DUE with outline

9/10/14
- Lecture: The first Constitution
- *The American Political Tradition* DUE with questions

9/11/14
- Lecture- 2nd Constitution
- *The Federalists Papers Activity*

9/12/14
- *The Federalist Papers Activity* Cont…

9/15/14
- Lecture: Federalism
- Government in America Chapter 3 DUE with outline

9/16/14
- Continue with Federalism including group work

9/17/14
- Review for exam one

9/18/14
- Exam One

9/29/14
- TBA(To be announced)

***All reading MUST be done prior to class discussion***