

# AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Mr. Robert Clark  
rclark@holynamehs.com

Required Textbook: *American Government Roots and Reform AP Edition*

First of all....Welcome to AP Gov! This course is designed to challenge you, and that begins with a summer assignment. This assignment is due the first day of school, Monday, August 24. All assignments will be turned in via Google Classroom. Don't wait until the last minute to do it!! Failure to complete ANY part of the summer assignment will result in you being dismissed from the class.

- There is a \$100 fee for dropping or being dismissed from class after May 30th

## **\*\*Part I - Summer Reading/Writing Assignments- Due on August 24th**

- Class code to join the Google Classroom is **xojhfan**
- All summer assignments will be posted and turned in through Google Classroom

## **\*\*Part II - Textbook Reading**

Read and take notes on the first 3 chapters of the textbook. Much of this material is a recap of your U.S. History class, however there is more focus on the government and how it has evolved.

### **Flashcards/Quizlet**

Vocabulary is vital for doing well on the AP exam so you will need to either create a set of flashcards or a Quizlet for the following vocabulary terms based off of the information in your textbook:

Government	Monarchy	Totalitarianism	Oligarchy
Democracy	Direct Democracy	Indirect Democracy	Republic
Political Culture	Personal Liberty	Political Equality	Popular Consent
Majority Rule	Popular Sovereignty	Natural Law	Political Ideology
Conservative	Social Conservative	Liberal	Moderate
Statist	Libertarian	Politics	American Dream
Federal System	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>	Federalist	Anti-Federalists
First Continental Congress	Full faith and Credit Clause		Great Compromise
Implied powers	Mercantilism	Committees of Correspondence	
Declaration of Independence	Articles of Confederation	Confederation	
Constitution	Bill of Rights	Checks and Balances	Enumerated Powers
Necessary and proper clause		New Jersey Plan	Second Continental Congress
Separation of Powers	Shay's Rebellion	Stamp Act Congress	Supremacy clause
3/5 Compromise	Virginia Plan	Appellate Jurisdiction	Original Jurisdiction
Writ of Certiorari	Brief	Amicus Curiae	John Jay
John Marshall	Earl Warren	Due Process Clause	Judicial Review
Confederation	Unitary system	reserved powers	Concurrent powers
Bill of attainder	Ex post facto laws	Privileges and immunities clause	
Extradition clause	Interstate contracts	Charter	Dual federalism
Nullification	Cooperative federalism	New Deal	Categorical Grants
Block Grants	New Federalism	Programmatic requests	Progressive Federalism

### **The first assessment will be on Friday August 28th**

There will be a multiple choice assessment on the vocabulary terms found in the first 3 chapters of the textbook. On future tests I will be providing a study guide so you will have a stronger idea of what it is I will

be looking for. **All tests will be in the format of the AP Exam which you will be taking on Monday May 3rd at 8am (put it in your phones now).**

**\*\*Part III - Read and Watch the news!**

We discuss a lot of current events, especially as they pertain to class material. It is important that you pay attention to current news stories. To facilitate this goal, you will need to keep a “news log.”

1. This assignment must be typed. It must be neat and organized and easy to follow. Each story needs to be numbered. It will be due on **Monday, August 24th** and will be turned in through Google Classroom.

2. You will need to record 3 news stories. All of these stories should have to do with current events and US government/politics. These news stories should come from reputable sources (Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, etc.) All of these websites (and the actual newspapers) have a “politics” section. Your stories should come from here. For each news story you must:

- Read the story before you do anything else
- Record the title of the news story, author and date
- Who, what, where, when, why and how did this story come about? Be thorough in your explanations, for example, if the story is about Nancy Pelosi, you need to tell me what her position is in the government, her political party and state/district he represents.
- Make sure you address the central political issue in the story.
- Responses should be in paragraph form. Each summary should be at least one paragraph.
- Please provide the bibliographic information for each story. This means provide the link to the story. If you used the actual newspaper, tell me which paper you used and the date it was published.

3. You will need to watch 3 news programs that all broadcast at the same time and on the same day (you may have to set your dvr to record them or use YouTube). For example: at 8pm on MSNBC is All In with Chris Hayes, CNN is Anderson Cooper 360, and on Fox News is Tucker Carlson Tonight, and address the following:

- What stories did they cover?
- What was the order in which they were covered?
- Which story did they focus most of their time discussing?
- Was there any story they did not focus on that others did (or vice versa)
- How did they present these stories? (is there bias? Does it seem fair and balanced? Do they provide multiple opinions/views?)

I ask that you avoid the morning news programs or local shows, and focus on the national programs that are broadcast at 4pm and later.

**\*\*Part IV - Required reading:**

*Washington's Farewell Address*

A farewell address by an outgoing president is a custom that goes all the way back to George Washington; these speeches serve as a bookend to a presidency. For about 150 years, Washington's farewell speech was the most famous in American history. It was more widely reprinted than the Declaration of Independence. And yet today, it's almost entirely forgotten. Washington had the greatest team of ghost writers in history, James Madison on the first draft and then Alexander Hamilton. But while the final words may have been largely Hamilton's, the ideas were all Washington's. He came up with a series of warnings that are remarkably prophetic to us today: hyper-partisanship, excessive debt, foreign wars, and the danger of foreign influence in our politics as a way of subverting sovereignty. These were some of the forces he felt could destroy our

democratic republic and he wanted to warn future Americans that these were the really important things to remember. To that extent, it's a talismanic document. It connects the past, Washington's present, and the future.

**Class Discussion- Due Monday, August 24th**

The first few days of class we will be discussing his speech along with the state of politics in America today. Prior to this discussion you need to address the following requirements. These should be typed and turned in on Google Classroom. Be ready to share your answers.

Provide a statement concerning his viewpoint on each topic, a reason for his beliefs, and a statement on whether you agree or disagree that each should be applied to life in the U. S. today and why. Write 15 sentences explaining George Washington's advice as stated in his Farewell Address, giving 3 sentences to each of these 5 topics:

- International Relations
- Partisanship / Political Parties
- Nationalism/Federalism
- Constitutionalism
- Relationship between Religion, Morals, and Politics

**Washington DC Trip:**

For those who are interested and available, we will be going to Washington DC on Wednesday March 10th and returning Saturday March 13th. More specifics will be provided at the beginning of the school year, but it might not be a bad idea to start saving now.

***If you have any questions regarding anything AP Government related do not hesitate to contact me.***