



Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics
Wilton High School Social Studies Summer Work



Course Overview

AP United States Government and Politics is a **DEMANDING COLLEGE LEVEL** introduction to government and politics. This course is designed for students who desire to expand their understanding and knowledge of how the United States political system operates. Because this course is similar to a first year college introductory political science course, students should expect that the amount of ***WORK IS MORE INTENSE THAN HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES***. The analytical thinking, writing, and reading skills that students develop in AP US Government and Politics will allow them to have a smooth transition into college and the working world.

Purpose of Summer Work

The summer reading and writing program is designed to familiarize students with the expectations of an introductory college level course and should be recognized as a prerequisite for course admission. The summer work must be ***completed*** and presented to the teacher on the first day of school. If the work is not completed the student will be IMMEDIATELY sent to his or her guidance counselor to drop the class. **Students should be prepared to take several assessments on the Constitution and the summer reading during the first week of school.**

The content of the AP Exam in US Government and Politics includes such a wide variety of topics all deriving from political philosophy and the United States Constitution, it is essential that students begin to prepare over the summer. Summer work includes these titles: ***These works SHOULD be read in the order listed below.***

Assigned Reading List:

1. O'Connor, Karen, and Larry Sabato. *American Government Roots and Reform AP*. Tenth Edition. New York City: Longman, 2009. Print.

- Chapters: ***(PDF on Ed-Line Social Studies Page)***
 - 1 “The Political Landscape
 - 2 “The Constitution”

2. *The United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights*

OR

Hennessey, Jonathan. *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Print

(Summer Reading List Continues on pg. 2)

3. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*. Baltimore: Lanahan Pub Inc, 2006. N. pag. Print. (4th Edition)

- **Articles in American Polity that must be read:**
 - Preface
 - De Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*
 - Hartz, Lous. *The Liberal Tradition in America*
 - Hofstadter, Richard. *The American Political Tradition*
 - Madison, James. *The Federalist 10*
 - Madison, James. *The Federalist 51*
 - Hamilton Alexander. *The Federalist 78*

4. Matthews, Chris. *Hardball How Politics Is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game*. New York: Free, 1999. Print.

5. Goldwater, Barry M. *The Conscience of a Conservative (The James Madison Library in American Politics)*. New York: Princeton UP, 2007. Print.

Note Taking (graphic organizers, dialectical journal, Cornell Notes, traditional bullets, etc.): While read, students should take notes (preferably on Microsoft Word, utilizing the bullets and digital comment options which could be found on the “Review” tab) that are focused on the essential questions below:

- Read, highlight and annotate and outline your textbook readings.
- *The Constitution, Bill of Rights & American Polity articles*
 - What are the inner-workings of American politics and government?
 - Why a *U.S. Constitution* and a *Bill of Rights*?
 - What is the scope and sequence of government?
 - legislative power
 - executive power
 - judicial power
 - What is man’s natural disposition in a state of nature (Enlightenment influences on the founders)?
- *Hardball*
 - What is politics?
 - What is power?
 - What makes an effective leader?
 - How does one become a successful hardball player?

(Guided Questions continue on pg. 3)

- *The Conscience of a Conservative*
 - *What is a Conservative according to Barry Goldwater?*
 - *Has the Republican Party strayed away from Goldwater's 1960s philosophy?*
 - *How does Goldwater's western socialization impact his political philosophy? (individualist)*
 - *Could a candidate get elected President of the United States with Goldwater's political philosophy in the modern era?*