

AP US Government and Politics Summer Assignments

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 their guidance counselor to drop the class. Students should be prepared to take an assessment on the Constitution the first week of school.

Because the content of the AP Exam in 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 three titles: *These works must be read in the order listed below.*

The United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights

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

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

o ***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*

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

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

✓ Dean, John W. *Conservatives Without Conscience*. New York: Penguin (Non-Classics), 2007. Print.