

AP Government and Politics Summer Assignment 2017

Ms. Grundt

You need to go to the College Board website and look over the curriculum for this course. Familiarize yourself with the units, set up of the exam, and anticipated readings/projects. And, please watch any political television/films that will put you in the mindset for government power/institutional struggles. I will attach a list at the end of this assignment. We will discuss the first week of school.

Another item of importance-- it is very, very helpful if you have already taken USII or USII honors in order to be successful in this course. If you have not taken this course please read up on the major issues of US history in the 21st Century (Constitutional changes/crises/Presidential power/Civil rights, etc.).

I would like to have a Facebook page set up early in the year where we can share relevant news articles and clips. I will need a volunteer to help with this. Please see me as soon as you can to help out ☺

News Journal (due August 29-1st class meeting)

In order to be successful in AP Government it is essential to have some understanding of what is happening in our nation and our world, particularly news related to government and politics. During the school year these topics will be discussed in class but it is easy during the summer to fall behind on the news that you need to know. So this summer you will be compiling a "News Journal." You can use television, newspaper, magazine and internet news sources to stay informed. Please refer to the *more reputable sources* and *include them* in your journal. Also try to *be keenly aware of bias* when learning about what happened. See if you can detect and find another source that portrays the same story differently.

What you need to do is write out a news summary for each week. Your summary should include 3-4 major national, international and political stories for the week. This means stories such as the "Chemical weapons use in Syria," Supreme Court nominations, the "2018 Congressional Elections," etc., not "Taylor Swift is pregnant", "There was a murder in Cleveland", "a squirrel popped out of a toilet" etc. Try to focus on stories that relate to different branches of US Government. Each weekly summary should be a page or more for the week. (not a page per story).

Please put what you read into your own words.

You need a summary for 4 of the following weeks. I assume some of you have vacations and other summer activities so I am only requiring 4 weeks out of the entire summer. It does not need to be consecutive weeks. Please do not hand in copies of the articles that you read.

Weeks: 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20

*****Pay special attention to the Supreme Court Decisions Handed down in June, and Trump's Summer Plans and whatever you deem relevant*****

Due to the time limitations and the quantity of material we need to cover in this course, we may not have time to watch many movies. Please watch some of these films in your free time. There are a few television series (*House of Cards*, *Veep*, (to name a few) that are definitely relevant).

Advise & Consent (1962)	JFK (1992)
All the President's Men (1975)	Bob Roberts (1992)
Air Force One (1997)	Manchurian Candidate (1962) (2004)
The American President (1995)	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1940)
The Candidate (1972)	Syriana (2005)
Citizen Kane (1941)	Thirteen Days (2000)
Charlie Wilson's War (2007)	Wag the Dog (1997)
Dave (1992)	The War Room (1993)
The Day After (1983)	West Wing Episodes (1999-2006)
Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004)	The Ides of March (2011)
Ghandi (1982)	Lincoln (2013)
Frost/Nixon (2008)	Our Brand is Crisis (2015)
Nixon (1995)	Selma (2015)
Rendition (2007)	Iron Jawed Angels (2004)
Sicko (2007)	Swing Vote (2008)
Miss Sloane (2016)	Capitalism (2009)

Have a great summer. I look forward to meeting you in late August.