

Dear Students,

Welcome to AP U.S. Government and Politics! You will have the opportunity to earn college credit for this course through the College Board at the end of the year by taking the AP Exam in May of 2018. This is a very rigorous and fast-paced course. It is important that you are aware of the commitment you are about to undertake as a student of this course. Please make sure to read the summer assignment completely and carefully so that you will be ready to fully and successfully participate when class begins for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year!

There are two required parts (Part 2 & 3) and two suggested parts to this summer assignment and each one is described on the subsequent pages. Assignments should be prepared and completed by the first day of class.

Part 1: It is strongly suggested that you purchase an AP study guide. Any one you purchase will probably be fine.

AP US Government and Politics Crash Course by Larry Krieger, published by REA.

Barron's AP U.S. Government and Politics, 9th Edition (Barron's AP United States Government & Politics) **are examples of text that you can purchase**

Part 2: Federal Government Fact Sheet (Required)

Prepare a typed, 12 font single-spaced fact sheet containing the following information. Please keep in mind that you will be tested on this information in the first weeks of the semester:

I) Recent presidential history

- a. The winners and losers and political party of each presidential candidate from 1960-2016.
- b. The years in office for each president (this is simple for most presidents—the January after the November election. For JFK/LBJ and for Nixon/Ford, though, the years are irregular)

II) Current government officers

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary of State
- d. Secretary of Defense
- e. Speaker of House
- f. Chief Justice

III) Basic details on Congress

- a. Number of elected officials in the House of Representative and Senate
- b. Length of terms for members of the House & Senate

AP Government
Summer Assignment
Taylor, J

- c. House of Representatives members in the state of Georgia
- d. How is the number of representatives per state is determined?
- e. The members of Congress (House & Senate) that represent you

IV) Basic details on the president

- a. Qualifications
- b. Term length & limit on terms
- c. How does the Electoral College works?

V) Basic details on the Supreme Court

- a. List all 9 justices, in order of length of time on the bench and identify their lean (conservative, liberal, swing)

Part 3: Landmark Court Cases (Required)

Complete the “**Landmark Cases**” chart included in this document. The oyez website and streetlaw are excellent resources to use for chart completion:

<http://www.oyez.org/cases>

<http://streetlaw.org/en/Cases.aspx>

Information from this chart will provide a framework with which to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system. A quiz will also be given over the content of this completed chart during the first weeks of school. Note: You will NOT need to know the dates for the quiz; focus on understanding the background, issues, and ruling (who did what, who thought what was unconstitutional and WHY, what the court has ruled and has said about that issue, any vocabulary associated with the case, etc.)

Part 4: U.S. Constitution Outline

It is ***strongly suggested*** that you create an outline of the U.S. Constitution in a section of your notebook. Please visit the website: <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution#> and create a outline where you include the:

- a. Preamble
- b. Seven Articles
- c. 27 amendments

This information may be typed or handwritten. Your choice.

Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Information to include in the summary and significance box:

- 1) Background: Who was upset with who or what laws/actions did people not like or think were unconstitutional.
- 2) Issue: What was the constitutional issue the court addressed? An amendment (like 1st amendment – speech), a specific clause (like commerce clause)?
- 3) Ruling: What did the court decide? Was the law or action constitutional or not?

Case	Date	Summary and Significance
<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>		
<i>McCullough v. Maryland</i>		
<i>Gibbons v. Ogden</i>		
<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>		
<i>Brown v. Board</i>		
<i>Gitlow v. New York</i>		

Case	Date	Summary and Significance
<i>Mapp v. Ohio</i>		
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i>		
<i>Miranda v Arizona</i>		
<i>University of California v. Bakke</i>		
<i>Roe v Wade</i>		
<i>Everson v. Board of Education</i>		