

AP U.S. Government & Politics Course Letter and Registration Contract

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. Government & Politics. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with students next year as they challenge themselves academically with content I thoroughly enjoy teaching. I want to take the opportunity to give you some information about how the course is organized and what students are required and expected to do. Please read this entire letter so you may be able to make the most informed decision about the course.

AP U.S. Government & Politics is part of a national program sponsored by the College Board to introduce high achieving and highly motivated high school students to college curriculum in a high school setting. **It is important to understand that this course is a college-level class taught in high school; it is not a high school-level class for which students simply receive college credit.** This semester-long course will examine political concepts, institutions, public policies, and behaviors that characterize the government and political culture of the United States. Students will analyze and interpret data, develop evidence-based arguments, and participate in experiential learning activities (i.e., simulations). At the end of the academic year, each student will be required to take a national exam. The cost of this exam is \$91. For students who may have financial difficulties in meeting the cost, support may be available. The format of this national exam is currently being revised by the College Board, and will be made public this spring. As of now, it will consist of two sections: 70 multiple choice questions (70 minutes total), and five free-response items (100 minutes total). Each section will count 50% toward the exam score. Should a student score well, there is a chance he/she can earn college credit. Credit depends on individual college and university standards.

This AP course is available to students in grades 10-12. Students considering this course should reflect on their organizational, and time management skills. They should also evaluate their work ethic, and make sure they can dedicate quality time and effort to assignments inside and outside of the classroom. I encourage students, and parents/guardians alike, to contact me with any questions or concerns. I believe enrollment in this course can be worthwhile, and help students feel better prepared for higher education in colleges and universities. **If you wish to register for the course, please complete the attached contract and return it to me by Monday, March 12, 2018.** At that time, I will provide you the summer assignment. Please know that schedule changes will not be made once a student is enrolled in the course.

Sincerely,

Josh Lowe
Social Studies Teacher
T.C. Roberson High School
joshua.lowe@bcsemail.org

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS APPLICATION

By submitting this application and by registering for this course, you acknowledge that AP U.S. Government & Politics is rigorous and requires significant work inside and outside of the classroom. You have read the course letter, and understand that students must develop strong organizational and time management skills for success. You also understand and acknowledge that by registering for the course, students will be required to complete a brief summer assignment, maintain enrollment in the course, and take a national exam in May of the academic year.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature and Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date _____