

AP Government Announcement

It is now the time of year for students to begin planning for their next academic year. For this year's juniors that means the opportunity to enroll in Advanced Placement US Government. This is a one-year elective course open only to students in their senior year. As with all Advanced Placement classes, this is a college-level course in terms of homework, material covered, and expectations. At the end of the year students have the option of taking a standardized exam; satisfactory performance in that exam is recognized by most universities with either college credit or the satisfaction of graduation requirements. In addition, colleges and universities see enrollment in AP courses as an indication of academic ability and commitment when making enrollment decisions. Lastly, it is a course that is designed to give students a strong sense for what their first year of college will be like in terms of topics, discussions, and readings.

Students do not have to have been previously enrolled in an AP course to take AP Government. In fact, AP Government is the only AP class for roughly a third of this year's students.

Content of the course includes:

- Daily current events discussions focusing on national and international politics.
- The use of formal logic in examining modern debates and the avoidance of fallacies.
- An examination of political philosophy ranging from Aristotle and Plato to Locke and Hobbes. We will also be looking at the economic theories of Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill's ideas on civil liberties.
- The debates of the founding fathers and how those discussions created a system that was purposely complicated and inefficient.
- The emergence of federalism and how it has come to play a role in everything from gun control to gay marriage.
- An analysis of civil rights and civil liberties that includes a discussion of student rights, sexual harassment law, the USA Patriot Act, and other hot-button legal issues.
- The emerging importance of the US Supreme Court, including an examination of judicial philosophy. As part of the course students will be participating in a simulation of a supreme court case that will include writing legal briefs (for students who take the role of attorneys), oral arguments, and crafting legal decisions (for students who take the role of judges). Students will receive guidance on the simulation from attorneys who have argued cases before the nation's highest court.
- The role that the media plays in modern elections will be examined. As part of that unit students will be simulating a campaign crisis and its ensuing "spin. The students' subsequent strategies for handling the campaign crisis will be judged by professional political consultants and journalists who will be visiting the class.
- A history of political campaigning that will look at past campaign strategies, negative ads, and the mistakes that have ruined many a presidential campaign.

In short, this is a class that offers students the opportunity to understand their world at a deeper level, to get ready for college early, and to win a lot more arguments around the dinner table.

How do you get into AP Government?

To get into AP Government is a two-step process. The first is that students complete and turn in the application. That process is described on the first page of the application packet. Members of the Social Studies Department will then assess the student's suitability for AP Government. That determination will be made based upon social studies GPA, a teacher recommendation, and three short (paragraph length) essays. The second step is that students sign up for the class as part of the normal forecasting process. If we have concerns about a student's qualifications they will be notified in mid March, the student can later change their forecasting plan or opt to remain forecasted for the class. Some students have found success in the course despite a less-than-sterling academic past while others have not. So again, to enroll in AP Government is a two-step process: 1) forecast for the class as you would any other course. 2) complete an application and give it to your current social studies teacher by **Friday, March 9**. Students will not be allowed in the course if they have not applied for it.

Application for AP US Government Lake Oswego High School

AP US Government is offered to students who have an extensive interest in the study of the social sciences, who are receptive to a rigorous course of study and who have performed at a consistently high academic level. The AP US Government course helps prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Test in United States Government and Politics. Many colleges grant credit for a successful performance on the Advanced Placement test.

Application Procedure

1. Request an application from your current social studies teacher.
2. Review this packet.
3. Answer the questions on a separate piece of paper that are asked on the "Student Questionnaire."
4. Fill in the requested information on each of the other forms.
5. Discard this sheet. Reassemble the packet with the "Analysis and Summary" on the front, followed by the re-typed Student Questionnaire questions and the Teacher Recommendation form.
6. Staple your completed application.
7. Give the packet to your current social studies teacher and request a recommendation by Friday March 9, 2018
8. Sign up for the class as part of the normal forecasting process. You will only be formally enrolled in the course if you have also completed an application.

Application MUST BE TYPED. Handwritten will not be accepted.

AP Government Application: Analysis and Summary

The criteria for selection include: quality of essays, teacher recommendation, and grades in previous social studies courses.

Name of Student: _____ **AP US Government** _____

	Reviewer #1 Name: _____	Reviewer #2 Name: _____						
1. Essay quality Each question will be graded on a scale of 1 to 5 using the established criteria	Question #1 Question #2 Question #3	Question #1 Question #2 Question #3						
2. Teacher Recommendation Name of Teacher (1=Lowest 5= Highest)	Score: <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Comment:	Score: <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Comment:						
3. Social Studies Classes. Social Studies GPA:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">10</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; text-align: center;">11</td> </tr> </table>	9	9	10	10	11	11	Electives: _____ <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
9	9							
10	10							
11	11							
5. Final Evaluation Averaged essay scores + Social Studies GPA (multiplied by 2) + teacher recommendation = final ranking	Final evaluation score: <input style="width: 100px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	Final evaluation score: <input style="width: 100px; height: 40px;" type="text"/>						
6. Cumulative evaluation score The sum of the two reviewers final rankings <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 250px; height: 80px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>								

To the student: Fill out your name only.

Teacher Recommendation

When your application is completed, present this packet to your current social studies teacher and request a recommendation.

Name of Student: _____ Applying for: AP US Government

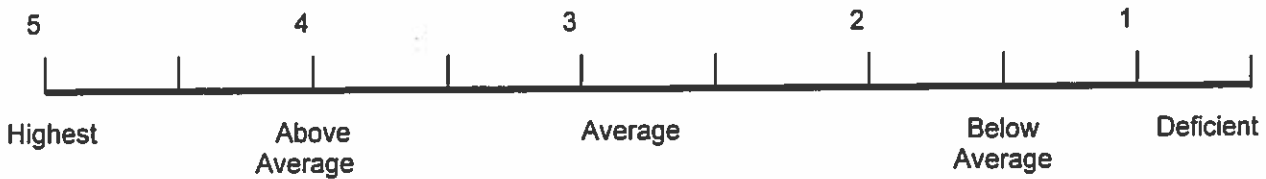
Name of Current Teacher: _____

Date Received: _____

Please evaluate this student according to the following criteria.

	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average
1. Demonstrates genuine interest in Social Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Thinks critically and understands abstractions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Demonstrates initiative, motivation, and commitment to quality performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Writes proficiently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Demonstrates mastery of content on tests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Listens, shares and participates actively	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Exhibits a positive attitude toward learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Reads with perception	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Disciplined work habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Attendance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Overall Recommendation:



To the student: Fill out the top only.

