

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Summer Assignment 2017

AP US Government is a challenging course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college level class. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote time to study, are necessary to succeed. You are required to complete the **two** following parts of the summer assignments to help prepare you for the class. These assignments will be due on the first day of class and will count as your first test grade. If you have questions, the best way to contact me over the summer is by email,

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Part 1 – Current Events

1. Locate five current event articles which are published from June 1st, 2017 – August 22, 2017. You should NOT have two articles from the same week.
2. Choose one current event from each of the following **TOPICS**:
 - Executive Branch
 - Legislative Branch
 - Judicial Branch (Supreme Court, court decisions, etc.)
 - Bureaucracy (executive departments and agencies such as Dept. of State, Defense, NASA, FBI, FEMA, EPA, etc.)
 - Domestic Policy
 - Foreign Policy
3. For each article, include the following as a heading:
 - a. Topic
 - b. Title of article
 - c. Author of article
 - d. Date of article
 - e. Source (specific web address) – Source not needed if you attach article
4. Following your heading, answer the following questions for each article:
 - a. What specific evidence has the author provided for the information presented?
 - b. What conclusions/generalizations do you draw from this article?
 - c. What do you think about this issue/info? Explain and justify your position.
 - d. Do you think it has a conservative or liberal bias? Why or why not?

Be prepared to discuss your FAVORITE article during the first week of the course!

Assignment 2—The US Constitution Study Guide

Directions: Carefully read the US Constitution and address the following questions. If you don't want to buy a copy, you can also access and print a copy from <http://constitutionbooklet.com/>. Having your own copy to highlight and make notes in will be very helpful.

PART I: OVERALL STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Read each article of the Constitution. Summarize the general purpose or subject of each article in one sentence in the chart below.

<i>Article I</i>	
<i>Article II</i>	
<i>Article III</i>	
<i>Article IV</i>	
<i>Article V</i>	
<i>Article VI</i>	
<i>Article VII</i>	

Part II: Constitutional Powers & Standards

2. Identify 17 constitutional powers (expressed powers) designated to Congress:

3. Identify 8 powers denied from Congress in the Constitution

4. How does the House of Representatives determine the rules of proceedings (the ability to have debates, riders, etc)

5. Identify the powers the Constitution prohibits from the States.

6. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the House?

7. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for members of the Senate?

8. What eligibility requirements does the Constitution establish for the President?

9. The powers of the Constitution that are specifically granted to the branches of government or to office holders are called expressed powers.
 - a. Identify two expressed powers of the House of Representatives

 - b. Identify three expressed powers of the Senate

 - c. Identify two expressed powers of the president.

 - d. Identify two expressed powers of the Vice President?

11. The *court of original jurisdiction* is the first court that hears a case. *Appellate courts* hear cases on appeal from lower courts. Although the Supreme Court functions primarily as an appellate court, it is the court of original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases. What are the circumstances that permit original jurisdiction to the US Supreme Court?

12. According to the Constitution, who has the power to declare war?

13. What power does the Constitution give the President in the area of war?

PART III: CLAUSES

1. Where is the “Commerce Clause” and what is its essential meaning?
2. Where is the “Necessary and Proper Clause” and what is its essential meaning?
3. In a general sense, how have the clauses above impacted the power of the federal government?
4. What is the writ of habeas corpus?
5. When can the writ of habeas corpus be suspended?
6. What is a bill of attainder and what does the Constitution say about it?
7. What are ex post facto laws and what does the Constitution say about them?
8. Where is the “Full faith and credit clause” and what is its essential meaning?
9. Where is the “Supremacy Clause” and what is its essential meaning?

AMENDMENTS TO THE US CONSTITUTION

Read each amendment to the US Constitution and provide a brief outline of what it does.

Amendment 1	
Amendment 2	
Amendment 3	
Amendment 4	
Amendment 5	
Amendment 6	
Amendment 7	

Amendment 8	
Amendment 9	
Amendment 10	
Amendment 11	
Amendment 12	
Amendment 13	
Amendment 14	
Amendment 15	
Amendment 16	
Amendment 17	
Amendment 18	
Amendment 19	
Amendment 20	

Amendment 21	
Amendment 22	
Amendment 23	
Amendment 24	
Amendment 25	
Amendment 26	
Amendment 27	

1. Where is the *Establishment clause* found and explain its meaning
2. Where is the *Free Exercise clause* found and explain its meaning
3. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of women?
4. Which amendment(s) of the Constitution protect the rights of African Americans?
5. How were US Senators chosen before the Seventeenth Amendment?

Thanks to Mrs. Waddell for sharing the summer assignment.