

Irvine High School Advanced Placement Government and Honors Economics

Advanced Placement Government and Honors Economics is the equivalent of an introductory course in Political Science at the college level. This class is designed to help you pass the Advanced Placement exam in Government as well as satisfy your graduation requirements for Economics.

Disclaimer:

This is not a history course. For the first time in your scholastic career you will not be taking a Social Science course that is predicated on historical thinking. If you are not willing to expand your horizons to include thinking like a Political Scientist then you will want to drop the course. Also, if you are taking this just to improve the look of your transcripts then you will not be successful and you also need to drop the course.

What is this course about?

This course is about citizenship. It is my goal to have each of you leave this class having the knowledge needed to participate meaningfully in our American political culture. For our society to remain strong and free we must have our citizens constantly participating in a dialogue that improves America. This means that we all take the duties of citizenship seriously by constantly questioning our government institutions and vigilantly protecting our natural rights. The first step in fulfilling these duties is acquiring the conceptual knowledge needed to understand government and critically think about its purpose.

The Summer Assignment

The summer assignment for AP Government will require you to read and understand the structure of the United States Constitution. Here are some websites you can use to access the Constitution over the summer. Some of these sites have annotated versions of the Constitution that explain the meanings and applications of the statues contained in the document.

1. http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html
2. <http://topics.law.cornell.edu/constitution/overview>
3. <http://supreme.justia.com/constitution/>
4. http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm
5. http://www.justicelearning.org/justice_timeline/Articles.aspx

The Constitution distributes and limits the power of the federal government and so you must have a sense of how it does this before you arrive to class on the first day. This assignment will also help you gain this sense.

Citizenship!

Notes about the Constitutional Scavenger Hunt

1.

All of the answers to the questions in the Constitutional Scavenger Hunt must be in your own words and the last portion about Supreme Court Cases is the only part that can be done on another sheet of paper. You may type or write the Supreme Court section. The rest of the assignment must be done on the sheets you are given.

2.

There will be an exam on the information from this assignment sometime in the first two weeks of the class. Because of this fact it will not benefit you to cut corners with this assignment. If you do it with integrity, then you will do well on the exam.

3.

Irvine High School's academic honesty policy applies to this assignment and all other assignments in AP Government. To look at the policy, use the following link.

<http://www.iusd.org/ihs/information/policies/academicpolicy.html>

Cheating will not be tolerated!

The Textbook

Because of a recent lawsuit brought by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), our district is no longer allowed to force students to buy materials; this includes textbooks. However, the College Board and I recommend that you buy your own textbook for this course. Owning your own textbook will allow you to annotate and highlight inside the book in order to increase the effectiveness of your reading.

If you would like to purchase your own book use the information below

<http://www.pearsonschool.com/>

Edwards, Government in America 15th Edition, AP Edition

Price: 117.97

isbn10: 0132566931

isbn13: 9780132566933

I am looking forward to next year and our time together. I know that it will be a great experience for all. If you have any questions do not be afraid to contact me. The best way is email: jresende@iusd.org; I check it constantly.

Best,