

Mount Vernon High School



Welcome to AP US Government & Politics!



2021-2022

Course Description

Ms. Russo—Teacher

Course Objectives

It is designed to fulfil the state graduation requirement of a course in Virginia and United States Government. It follows the AP US Government and Politics curriculum module created by College Board. **Students have the opportunity to receive college credit depending on their AP test score.** The AP test will be May 2, 2022. The course may also serve as preparation for the IB-Diploma social studies program through extensive opportunities to exercise and strengthen skills in content reading, research, analysis, writing, presentations, and styles of assessment.



You can help your student be successful by checking their agenda book, and Schoology website at <http://lms.fcps.edu> AND making sure homework is completed in Schoology.

Grading

Unit Tests	30%
Writing (Free response questions (FRQs))	30%
Project Based Assessments	15%
Quizzes	15%
Homework/Classwork	10%

**Syllabus with make-up work & late work policies is posted in

Course Readings

This school year we will be using an online textbook. The link can be found on blackboard. Our text: Karen O'Connor, Larry Sabato *American Government Roots and Reform*, AP edition; 13th edition; 2016 Presidential Election Edition. The course text may be supplemented by David Wolfford *Amsco Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics* teacher-selected newspaper and journal articles along with selections from web sites, readers, etc. These readings will be made available on Schoology. Students are also required to keep up with national and world events by reading papers such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Economist*, etc. to complete various assignments.

Teacher Contact Info:

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The key to student success is their hard work and communication between parents and teachers. I encourage all parents to contact me (info above) if you have any questions. **If you would like to receive text messages about your child's homework please join REMIND.** To join, text TO: 81010 (or if you have trouble to 229-471-1196) the following:
Period 2: @majorsap2
Period 7: @majorsap7

This is designed to be a college level Government and Politics course that will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics. While there is no single approach that an AP US Government and Politics course must follow, students should become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. There are five units of study in the course that emphasize content, thinking & writing skills in equal measure. This is also a project based learning classroom so students will also hone their collaboration skills. There is a period of review and preparation for the AP exam, and end of the year activities which will include a research project based on the IB Internal Assessment in which they will explore the practical application of government structures and principles through the case study of the evolution of Civil Rights in the United States.

