

Introduction to Advanced Placement Government

By registering for the A.P. Government Studies program, you have expressed a willingness to be academically challenged. It is imperative that you comprehend the degree of energy and effort required to successfully compete in this highly accelerated environment. Registering for A.P. Government represents only the first of many steps in a yearlong commitment. Should the summer assignment seem too great a burden, reconsider your initial interest in the program. **Students enrolled August 7th will not be allowed to drop the course - under any circumstances, until the end of the first semester, FEBRUARY 2010.** Should you choose to stay, I am pleased to say that the survivors of past campaigns have found the class an intellectually satisfying experience, albeit, a sometimes trying and tiring one.

2009-'10 A.P. Government Summer Assignment

1. Initiate the development of a thorough understanding of the Constitution of the United States by studying Articles I, II, III and IV, the Bill of Rights (first ten amendments), and the Fourteenth Amendment.
2. Cultivate an acute awareness of the issues and decisions for each of the Supreme Court cases listed on page two. **For A.P. exam purposes, each is a must-know decision!**
3. Familiarize yourself with the following presidents and the events listed in parentheses: Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Great Depression/New Deal), Lyndon Baines Johnson (Great Society/War on Poverty), Richard Milhous Nixon (Watergate), Gerald Rudolph Ford (OPEC), Jimmy (James) Earl Carter, Jr. (OPEC/Hostage Crisis), Ronald Wilson Reagan Tax Cuts/National Debt), George Herbert Walker Bush (End of Cold War), William Jefferson Clinton (Impeachment), George Walker Bush (Preemptive Strike/Stock Market Plunge) and Barack Hussein Obama (Redistribution of Wealth and Opportunity/Universal Health Care).

4. Essay

“Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.”

Utilizing the above quotation, respond to the following question.

As of May 7, 2009, five states had legalized homosexual marriage. While the number is likely to grow, a majority of the states are not expected to “voluntarily” embrace the idea of same-sex nuptials. Should a same-gender couple marry in Vermont; later move to Virginia, their marriage would not be considered valid. (A) In your opinion, is Virginia’s stance a legal one? Explain. (B) In accordance with current U.S. law (clue: Clinton’s 1996 signing of the Defense of Marriage Act), would Virginia’s position be considered lawful? Explain. (C) Would Virginia’s action violate the *Constitution* (clue: Article IV)? Explain. (D) Ultimately, one of two measures will have to be taken to get **all fifty states in agreement**, either supporting or denouncing homosexual marriage. **Mention each** and determine a likely course of action.

Your essay must be typed, double spaced, one (1) page in length. Grammatical correctness must be demonstrated. **Your essay is your ticket to class - due the first day!** Requests for

extensions, if granted, will be accompanied by a significant reduction in your grade.
Completion of numbers one, two, and three, prior to writing the essay, is highly suggested.

5. **Prepare for an exam, day number two of the new school year,** by studying items listed in numbers one, two, and, three.

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Marbury v. Madison	Shepard v. Univ. of Wyoming	McCullough v. Maryland
Engel v. Vitale	Plessy v. Ferguson	Gideon v. Wainwright
Lemon v. Kurtzman	Brown v. Board of Education	Fletcher v. Peck
INS v. Chada	Gibbons v. Ogden	Clinton v. New York City
Gitlow v. New York	Furman v. Georgia	Brandenburg v. Ohio
Sanford v. Dred Scott	Gregg v. Georgia	Tinker v. Des Moines
Loving v. Virginia	U.S. v. Nixon	Bakke v. California Regents
Korematsu v. U.S.	Mapp v. Ohio	Reynolds v. U.S.
Schenck v. U.S.	Roe v. Wade	Heart of Atlanta Motel v. U.S.
New York Times v. U.S.	Webster v. Human Resources	Griswald v. Connecticut
Baker v. Carr	Buckley v. Valeo	Bradwell v. State (Illinois)
Westberry v. Sanders	Rostker v. Goldberg	Miranda v. Arizona
Reynolds v. Sims	Black v. Virginia	Bowers v. Hardwick
Shaw v. Reno/Vera v. Bush	New York Times v. Sullivan	Barron v. Baltimore
New York Times v. U.S.	Texas v. Johnson	Planned Parenthood of Penn. v. Casey
Sweatt v. Univ. Of Texas	Boy Scouts of America v. Dale	Martin v. P.G.A. Tour

Assistance:

During the undertaking of this assignment, should unforeseen difficulties engulf you, please feel free to contact me at l.a.fortune@cox.net. Additionally, I will hold office hours should you require “limited” assistance in your preparation of any or all assignments listed above. **Office Hours: July 22, 2009 -- 2:00 to 4:00 and August 11, 2009 – 8:00 - 10:00**

Disclaimers:

Textbooks will not be issued until the first day of school. Therefore, research required to complete the A.P. Government assignment will require the utilization of “other” resources. Essential information can be found both in area libraries and on the Internet. In other words, this task is both an invitation to establish a comfort zone with the idea of independent research and an introduction to embrace the commitment considered appropriate to succeed in this most challenging and demanding endeavor -- entire course, not just the summer assignment.

Students completing the program **are expected to take the A.P. Government Exam** offered in mid May. **Remember, Students enrolled August 7th will not be allowed to drop the course, under any circumstances, until the end of the first semester, February 2010.**

*****This is a college class. In this environment, it is inappropriate for the teacher (professor) to “spoon feed” his students. If you cannot commit yourself to independent research, extensive reading and writing assignments, taking notes and remaining alert in class, reconsider your desire to enroll in this class - find an alternative option, one more likely to result in success.**