

Welcome to AP Government! This will be a fascinating but whirlwind class on the underlying principles, documents, and developments that have shaped the formation of the government and political institutions of the United States. There is a lot to cover, so let's jump right in and get started! Here is an overview of the bootcamp session and the needed preparations to be made. All of the resources and assigned readings are included in this email (see attached PDF).

Bootcamp session: August 1, 8:00am

Goal: Provide students with bookends for the course by beginning their analysis and understanding of 3 key founding documents of the United States and by surveying the current issues facing the American government and political process. The twin goals of understanding where we started and where we are currently going will aid in contextualizing the short timeframe of this AP course.

Assignments (to be completed before the bootcamp session on August 1, 8:00am)

1: Follow the reading questions and guide to three of the key founding documents and completing the attached reading and summarizing activities:

- a. Excerpts from Locke's *Second Treatise* on civil government and the state of nature
- b. The Articles of Confederation
- c. The US Constitution

2: Keep a Current Events Journal for 5 of the 9 weeks between the end of the school year and the AP bootcamp of roughly 300 words per week that should include:

- a. Summary of a major political issue/event that the student read, listened to, or watched.
- b. Analysis of what it means, questions they have about politics, issues, or people involved.

The main objective of this isn't to become an expert on current events but to become engaged in current political challenges, issues, or concerns, and begin to understand how we got to that point. Identifying gaps in knowledge should be a main concern.

Bootcamp Session:

Seminar: This will begin with a quiz (MCQ and SAQ), that will be part of the seminar grade, followed by structured discussion where students are expected to be able to answer basic questions about the foundational documents during the summer reading. In the final 30 minutes of the bootcamp we will have a discussion of main current event issues addressed by the Current Events Journals. Students should bring an electronic or printed out version of the question sections of the attached PDF (no need to bring the whole document!)

Assessment: To reward students for their summer efforts, students will get their first grades for the 2023-24 based on two areas:

Seminar (participation) questions/discussion based on the 3 documents assigned in the reading and the written and discussion answers given during the session.

Current Events Journal (entries 1-5) will be credited to the first of the ongoing weekly writing assignments (IMPORTANT: students should keep an eye out for a shared google doc to complete their weekly questions. These will be individually shared with students' [oakmount.us](mailto:email@oakmount.us) email accounts)

Just about all the other information students need to prepare is included in the attached PDF. If you have any additional questions, please let me know!

📎 AP Gov Summer Assignment.pdf