

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MR. WOOLSEY

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COURSE INFORMATION:

This is a semester-long class open to juniors and seniors. A college-level course, this is an introduction to the U.S. national government. We will study government institutions and political processes, as well as examine policy choices. The institutions and policies of the U.S. government will be considered in light of historical change, constitutional procedures, and comparative perspectives. **PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE VERY LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE; CLASS INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALWAYS A BETTER BET.**

TEXTS, READINGS, VIDEOS:

Lineberry, Edwards and Wattenberg. Government in America: People, Politics and Policy. 11/12th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2004

Handouts will supplement text readings.

TEACHING METHODS:

This class is primarily lecture based. Lectures will be supplemented with class discussions, guided reading activities, current events presentations, written term papers and student-prepared panel discussions.

GRADING:

Grades are calculated using a point system and a standard ten-point scale. The semester final will count for around 15% of the semester grade. Students need to keep up on the reading to be successful on all assignments.

THE AP EXAM:

The exam will take place on Tuesday, May 13, in the morning. Review sessions will be conducted in the month prior to the exam. Students are expected to attend.

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY:

This is a challenging course that requires substantial reading and preparation. Time management and staying caught up are the keys to success.