

G. H. Smith, PhD.
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For Parents and students:
Class website: <http://apgovtimpview.weebly.com>
Sign up with **Remind.com** to receive class messages & reminders.
For texts, text @627a92 to 81010. To receive messages via email,
send an email to 627a92@mail.remind.com

Disclosure Document for AP Government

This yearlong, political science course **prepares students** for knowledgeable participation in United States civic life and to take two Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: United States Government and Politics and Comparative Government and Politics. The course is designed to **teach students** to understand and critically analyze concepts in U.S. and **comparative politics** through in-depth study of United States government and politics and through the comparative study of six core countries: the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Iran, **Russia**, and China.

*Political science is the study of government and how it works. It is the study of **power**, how power is created, exercised, justified, and challenged. It is impossible to study political science without also touching on economics, history, law, sociology and psychology.*

Studying political science is great fun, but it can also be difficult, particularly when we discuss issues that connect to family situations or touch on strongly-held, personal or family, beliefs. Respect and sensitivity is essential. I require students to learn with their fellow students: cooperatively, collaboratively, and respectfully.

Class activities will include vigorous discussion, small group work, formal and informal debates, student presentations, games

Homework: Passing AP exams qualifies students for college credit at most colleges and universities in the United States; therefore, this class is a rigorous, college level course. Students should expect daily homework. Homework should be typed and printed before class. This allows students to make corrections and additions in class, with no penalty.

Student Responsibilities

1. **Refer to the Student Handbook** for information on dress, integrity, attendance, and electronic devices.
2. You should have a 3-ring binder for AP government. Bring it, your textbook, and pen/cil to class daily.
3. Stay current in your assignments. **Late work receives ½ credit.**
4. Attendance is crucial to learning. Sign the tardy log (near the front door) if you are late. If absent because of extracurricular activities or pre-approved release, arrange to do any assignments, quizzes, or tests, prior to leaving. **In-class activities and pop quizzes cannot be made up**, even for excused absences or tardies, but this should not adversely affect your grade unless you are tardy or absent excessively. Extenuating circumstances will be handled individually.
5. Participation in one Model United Nations conference is required during the school year.
6. Be an **attentive, cooperative, and respectful** participant in class.
7. Check the class website regularly, especially when you are absent, for assignments, handouts, powerpoints used in class, etc. Sign up with Remind.com to receive messages and reminders.

Grading is based on a simple percentage of points accumulated, weighted by the points possible. For example, most homework assignments will be worth 15 points, most tests will be worth about 50 points. Therefore, one test is worth more than one homework assignment, but there will be multiple homework assignments and few tests. Practice AP tests will be taken by all students, even those not intending to take the actual AP test*. Points possible on practice tests are minimal to reduce stress. All students may do ½ credit “test corrections” to improve their test scores on any test. Test corrections involve writing a paragraph explaining the error and the correct answer, and must be scheduled with the teacher and completed in room I-16.

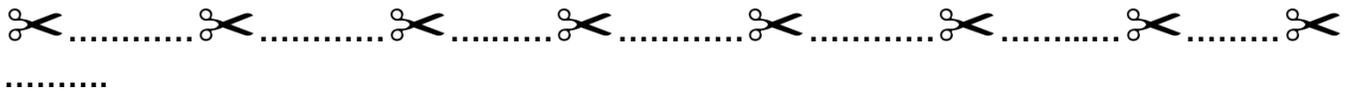
<u>GRADE SCALE</u>	
A	= 94%
A-	= 90%
B+	= 87%
B	= 83%
B-	= 80%
C+	= 77%
C	= 73%
C-	= 70%
F	< 70%

*Students who choose not to take the May 2016 AP test will not have additional assignments to complete.

Following the May 2017 AP test, class time will be spent watching, discussing, and writing about 2 or 3 films that are related to important historical events or government policies. These may include *Hotel Rwanda*, *Lincoln*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Great Debaters*, *Joyeux Noel*, *Amazing Grace*, *Iron-Jawed Angels*, *12 Angry Men*, *All the King's Men*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Malcolm X*, *Selma*, *13 Days*, *Sum of All Fears*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Absence of Malice*, *All the President's Men*, *The Candidate*, *The China Syndrome*, or episodes of *The West Wing*. Students and parents will help decide which films are selected. Clips of any of the above may also be shown during the school year.

The best way to contact the teacher, Mrs. Smith, is through email: gloris@provo.edu. I will almost always be able to respond within 24 hours, usually much more quickly.

Please cut here and keep the above for future reference.



Please sign and return this portion.

Student name (please print) _____

Student signature _____

Parent name (please print) _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Email address (please print) _____

Other preferred method of contact: _____