



Course: AP US and Comparative Government

Prerequisites: An interest in reading, thinking, discussing, writing, and learning about governments. Those who have a background in AP social studies courses and who have actively written in their social studies course will be at an advantage, but prior knowledge and exceptional skills are not required if a positive work ethic is applied.

Short Course Description: This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exams in American Government and Comparative Government. But more importantly, it is designed to give a thorough understanding of how a variety of governing systems work in relation to our own. Given the increasingly interconnected and technologically transformed world we live in, an understanding of these systems could have a profound impact on the future personal and professional well being of us all.

Summer Assignment: There is no summer assignment, though pre-reading for the course is recommended for those who have not already taken an AP social studies course.

Work Load during the School Year: 20-30 pages of reading per block, a daily government journal (10minutes/day), short research paper per quarter, bi-weekly group presentation based on course readings.

Passing Rate: The Passing Rate at McLean has typically been 70+% of students achieving 3 or above.

Special Course Information: This course combines the two common college introductory political science courses and ends in two AP exams. Note that it is a political science course with levels of analysis and discussion of variables beyond what is typically expected of a history course.

Available Support: After school office hours, Student text handbook with extensive practice and review materials, on line resources provided by the publisher, numerous review books such as *the Princeton Review*, numerous study aids provided in class.

Student Quotes: “...interesting, challenging, worth it...”
 “...lots of work, but it makes college much easier..”
 “..forces you to think, and helps you better understand US and world politics..”

Please sign indicating that you have read and understand the nature of this AP course.

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student signature

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parent signature