AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: UNITED STATES and COMPARATIVE

FAQs:

What does this course cover?
This is a year-long course divided into two semester classes. In the fall students are enrolled in AP Government and Politics: U.S. and students study the American government and political system. In the spring students are enrolled in AP Government and Politics: Comparative and students study the governments and nations of the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran and Nigeria.

What are the prerequisites and admissions criteria for this course?
There are no prerequisites for AP Government and Politics. Students should have a genuine interest in politics and international affairs and should communicate that interest to their counselor. Students may appeal to the instructor if not recommended for the course by their counselor.

What Social Studies requirements does this course fulfill?
AP Government fulfills the regular American Government [fall semester] and Economics [spring semester] courses which are state standards and required for graduation. The economics components in both American and Comparative Government cover the majority of topics covered in regular Economics.

Can I take just one of the courses?
No, students must enroll in both classes. The only exception is for students who took Close Up American Government as sophomores or juniors. These students may opt to sign up for both classes or may see me for permission to take only the Comparative Government semester if there is room in the class. Much like Biology and AP Biology, the AP course goes into such greater depth, it is considered a totally different course by colleges.

Will I receive college credit for this course?
In May students will take two College Board exams for each of the courses. Students may receive credit for one or both classes. Some colleges will give students credit for a passing score of 3, 4 or 5. Students who pass both exams and whose college choice accepts a passing score, can move directly into upper division political science courses.

Is there a summer reading assignment?
Yes. Students are given a list of about 10 political books most of which have been written in the previous year, on a variety of political topics and from a variety of political viewpoints. Students will be given an assignment based on the book and will also share the book in a presentation to the class in the fall. The average amount of time required to complete this assignment according to prior students is about 10-15 hours depending upon the book selected and your reading speed.

How much homework should I expect in this course?
Students at the beginning of each semester are given a Semester Schedule Overview. Students are responsible for staying on top of the reading for each section (U.S) or nation chapter (Comparative). Generally, students should consider having 20-30 pages of reading per week.

Can I also take AP Macroeconomics second semester?
Yes. Several students each year elect to take AP Macroeconomics in addition to AP Comparative Government.

If you have additional questions, please email me at bsussman@bishopodowd.org