

John Marshall High School  
Instructor: Ms E. Wronski  
Kenyon Professor John Elliott  
Syllabus – KAP Political Science 200: Liberal Democracy in America

Textbook: Government in America (Edwards III) – 8<sup>th</sup> edition, 1998.  
Textbook: Government in America 11<sup>th</sup> edition, 2006-11-28

Students enrolled in the KAP program at John Marshall high school are combined in classrooms with non-KAP students enrolled in the traditional AP Government course. While all students (KAP and non-KAP) will use one of the course textbooks listed above, KAP students will have additional assignments using the supplemental reading materials provided by Kenyon College.

*Government* is defined as: those institutions and processes by which public policies are made for a society. *Politics* is connected to questions of who gets what, when and how. Throughout this course we will examine some of the following key concepts:

- \* Explain the foundation of the American Political System as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Federalists Papers.
- \* Explain the role of elections, political parties, and interest groups.
- \* Examine ways in which public officials acquire and lose their offices including: appointment, primary and general elections, recall and impeachment.
- \* Examine the role of the Congressional Branch, learn how bills become law, analyze the impact of Congress on public policy and the political system.
- \* Examine the relationship of the Federal Government and the States.
- \* Examine the role and function of the Executive Branch, including the Cabinet, Federal Bureaucracy and Agencies.
- \* Examine the role and function of the Federal Courts. Trace key Supreme Court decisions and study how they impact public policy with a focus on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.
- \* Examine the history of the Courts with a focus on judicial activism and judicial restraint. Was Marbury vs Madison the first key example of judicial activism?
- \* Examine various PAC's and Interest Groups and their impact or lack of impact on shaping public policy issues and voting behavior.
- \* Examine policy making in regards to: Economy, Foreign Relations and Defense.
- \* Analyze the effects of shortages, surpluses, government price controls, inflation, CPI, GDP and the Unemployment Rate.
- \* Examine the history of Mass Media and how it impacts the political process and shaping of public policy.

On the next page you will find the more specific chapter and reading assignments.

**\*Please note:** All Students will do assigned reading from the textbook (depending on which text you receive). **Only \*KAP** students are responsible for **the additional reading** assignments listed in the third column. Books provided by Kenyon College.

### **First Semester**

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Edwards Text</u> 2006 – 11 <sup>th</sup> edition (1*)	<u>Edwards Text</u> 1998 – 8 <sup>th</sup> edition (7-8*)	<u>*KAP Readings</u> (total 5 books)
Intro to Government The Constitution, Federalism	Chap 1,2,3	Chap 1,2,3	<u>*The Federalist Papers</u> (Hamilton-Madison-Jay)
Mass Media, Campaigns Political Parties, Elections	Chap 7,8,9	Chap 7,8,9	<u>*The Election of 2004</u> (Nelson)
Elections & Voting Behavior	Chap 10	Chap 10	
The Congress	Chap 12	Chap 12	<u>*Congress</u>
The Presidency Taxing and Spending The Federal Bureaucracy	Chap 13,14,15	Chap 13,14,15	

### **Research Papers due First Semester**

Topic Choices: The Presidency, Cabinet and Federal Bureaucracy, Political Parties, The Congress, The Election Process.

### **Second Semester**

The Federal Courts The Judiciary & Cases	Chap 16	Chap 16	<u>*The Supreme Court</u> (Agresto)
Civil Rights, Civil Liberties And Public Policy	Chap 4,5	Chap 4,5	
The Economy, Foreign Policy, Defense & Social Welfare	Chap 17,18,20	Chap 17,18,20	<u>*Presidential Power</u> (Neustadt)
Health Care & Environment	Chap 19	Chap 19	
Interest Groups State & Local Government Public Opinion	Chap 19 Chap 21 Chap 6	Chap 19 Chap 21 Chap 6	

### **Research paper due Second Semester**

KAP students must base their paper on one of the five books they've read this year.  
Topic Choices: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, The Federal Courts, Foreign Policy and Defense, Domestic Policy and Social Welfare.

**Note:** All students will spend class time preparing for the May AP Exam. This will include: Sample Exams, Multiple Choice and Free Response Essays.

**Workbook:** “*AP – 5 Steps to a Five*” (class practice will be staggered in that we only have **one class set available** for 65 students).

**Note:** First Period AP/KAPS Class may prepare and participate in the Cleveland Annual Law Day **Mock Trial** Competition as well.