

KAP – Liberal Democracy PSCI 200D
2015-2016

Warrensville Heights High School
Instructor: John Powers

Course Description: This course explores the guiding principles, major institutions, and national politics of the American political order. The founders' view of liberal democracy and the three branches of our government (presented in the Federalist Papers) will provide the basis for consideration of the modern Supreme Court, presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, news media, and political parties and elections. The course includes Tocqueville's broad overview of American democracy and its efforts to reconcile liberty and equality. The themes of the course will be illustrated by references to current political issues, events, and personalities.

Course Requirements: Students will be required to complete numerous essays for class along with all the required readings. There will also be several term papers and exams given during the school year.

1st Semester Assignments - Foundations

Magruder's Chap. 1 The Study of American Government

Chap. 2 The Constitution

Chap. 3 Federalism

Chap. 4 American Political Culture

Chap. 5 Public Opinion

Chap. 6 Political Parties

Federalist Papers Intro., 1-4, 10, 51

6, 8, 9, 37-38

40, 54, 47-48

27, 42, 49, 58

63, 70, 73, 14, 33, 39, 64

Democracy in America Book 1

2nd Semester Assignments – Branches of Government

Magruder's Chap. 8 Elections

Chap. 9 Interest Groups

Chap. 10 Media

Chap. 11 Congress

Chap. 12 Presidency

Chap. 14 Judiciary

Nelson. The Election of 2010

Mayhew Congress: The Electoral Connection

Neustadt, Presidential Powers
Agrsto, The Supreme Court