

KAP – Liberal Democracy PSCI 200D
2016-2017
Warrensville 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

MacGruder Chap. 1 Foundations of Government
 Chap. 2 The Beginnings of American Government
 Chap. 3 The Constitution
 Chap. 10 Government by the People
 Chap. 11 Elections
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
Nelson. The Election of 2010

2nd Semester Assignments – Branches of Government

MacGruder Chap. 4 Legislative Branch
 Chap. 5 Executive Branch
 Chap. 7 Judicial Branch
 Chap. 8 Protecting Civil Liberties
 Chap. 9 Citizenship and Civil Rights
 Chap. 13 State and Local Government

Mayhew Congress: The Electoral Connection
Neustadt, Presidential Powers
Agresto, The Supreme Court and Constitutional Democracy