

Independence High School

Kenyon Academic Partnership (KAP) 2014-15
Political Science 200: Liberal Democracy in America
Instructor Mr. Ben Mayfield Room 213
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Times available for extra help: 1st, 2nd and 8th period

Based on your academic performance, your desire to learn and your school leadership, you have been selected to take this *COLLEGE COURSE*. Even though you are at Independence High School you are now *college students*. That being said, you will be expected to act like college students. I will treat you as such.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed under the guidance of Professors Dr. John Elliott and Dr. H. Abbie Erier of Kenyon College in Gambier Ohio, this course explores the guiding principles, major institutions and national politics of the American system of government. The course will begin with the Founder's view of liberal democracy, including The Federalist Papers, and of the three branches of government and the creation of the Constitution. The course will continue with a thorough look into elections, congress, public opinion, the presidency and the judicial branch. The year concludes, with an overview of American Democracy and the ideas of liberty and equality. We will use current political events, issues and people to discuss various themes. This will include newspapers, websites and television newscasts. This course satisfies the Columbus City Schools requirement for Democratic Citizenship.

REQUIRED READINGS

Agresto, John. The Supreme Court and Constitutional Democracy. Ithaca: Cornell, 1984.

De Tocqueville, Alexis. Democracy In America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Mayhew, David. 1974. Congress: The Electoral Connection. New Haven: Yale, 1974

Neustadt, Richard E. Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents. New York: Free Press, 1974

The Federalist Papers. Edited by Cynthia B., New York: Pocket Books, 2004

Many copies of these books can be found on Amazon.com for less than \$5 (downloadable editions are cheaper). Of course your local library has them as well.

COURSE TEXTBOOK

Patterson Thomas E. 2011. We the People, A Concise Introduction to American Politics. McGraw Hill, New York.

ALIGNMENT

This course is aligned with the October 2013 High School American Government Ohio's new learning standards. These address the topics below: (a full description can be found at the following website)

http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Academic-Content-Standards/Social-Studies/High-School_American-Government_Model-Curriculum_April2014.pdf.aspx

Civic involvement Civic participation and skills Basic principles of the Constitution

Structure and functions of the government Role of the people Public policy

Governments and the economy Ohio's state and local governments

HONESTY IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITY (Per the Kenyon College website)

Kenyon College is, at the core, an intellectual community of scholars – students and faculty – engaged in the free and open exchange of ideas. Simultaneously, we are part of a larger world of writers and artists, scientists, innovators, and researchers, all participating in wide-ranging conversations that sustain us intellectually and develop new knowledge. Critical to this lively exchange and deep engagement with ideas is the academic integrity of our work, both inside and outside the classroom.

As students in this community, all your work – tests, papers, artistic projects, experiments, etc. – is part of this common intellectual pursuit. Therefore, every piece of work you produce is your own contribution to our collective scholarly conversation. It must represent your own research, ideas, data, words, and analysis. For all of us, learning from other scholars, artists, scientists, or

fellow students is essential to the process of education. While engaged in that process, it is critical to recognize the sources and bases from which you have derived your work and ideas. It is therefore an obligation to take personal responsibility for all of your work and give appropriate acknowledgement and credit to all those on whose ideas you have relied. These are sentiments common across academic communities and, indeed, these paragraphs are inspired by statements of academic integrity made by many of peer institutions such as Grinnell College, Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Williams, Davidson, and the College of Wooster.

At Kenyon, we expect all students, at all times, to submit work that represents these standards of academic integrity. It is the responsibility of each student to learn and practice the proper ways of documenting and acknowledging those whose ideas and words you have drawn upon. Ignorance and carelessness are not excuses for academic dishonesty. Maintaining a climate of academic integrity requires all members of our intellectual community to abide by these principles and to hold one another accountable by reporting those who violate our standards of conduct. Defined below are the kinds of work that violate our principles.

EXPECTATIONS

This KAP Liberal democracy course assigns an array of writing assignments. It has an independent research paper, as well as short papers. These papers are evaluated for both substance and quality of writing. There will be quizzes and unit tests. You will be expected to keep up with readings and assignments and to participate in classroom discussions.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

Quarter 1: August 21- October 17, 2014

Before the new Constitution

Liberalism and the American Revolution

The Articles of Confederation

The Constitutional Convention

Readings: Tocqueville, Democracy in America Chapters 1-5

Patterson, Chapters 2-4

Federalist Papers, various- to be determined

McCulloch v. Maryland

Bill of Rights

Major paper due October 17, topic TBD

Quarter 2: October 20, 2014- January 9, 2015

Political Institutions and Processes in the American Regime

Public Opinion, Elections and Governing

Congress and Congressional Elections

The Contemporary Congress

Major paper due January 9, topic TBD

Readings: Federalist Papers 35, 52-3, 62-3, 84-85

Patterson, chapters 6-11

Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection

Tocqueville, Part II, Chapter 1

Quarter 3: January 12- March 13, 2015

The Executive Branch and the Presidency

The Founders, the Constitution and the Presidency

Bureaucracy

Welfare and Educational Policy

Major paper due March 13, topic TBD

Readings: Neustadt, Presidential Power

Patterson, Chapters 12 and 13, 16

The Constitution, Article II

Quarter 4: March 16- May 22, 2015

The Judicial Branch

The Dangers of Democracy

Democracy and Aristocracy

The founding of the Judicial Branch

Readings: Agresto, The Supreme Court and Constitutional Democracy

Patterson, chapters 14-15

Final paper due May 18- topic -TBD

The Constitution: Article III

Tocqueville, chapter 6

Marbury v. Madison

Federalist Papers 78 and 81

This syllabus is subject to, and probably will, change 😊