

May 2016

Dear AP US Government and Politics Students:

I am excited to be your AP Government and Politics teacher next year! This will be my third year teaching AP Government. I also teach Government and Economics, and I previously taught AP World History and AP US History. Prior to coming to Sunnyslope, I taught eight years at Arcadia High School in the Scottsdale District.

The study of government is a lot of fun. We are going into an election year, so that should make it doubly interesting from a political standpoint.

Because this is a college-level social science course, you should expect to do a lot of writing and reading, including reading articles assigned beyond the text. Some are scholarly articles that appear in political science journals, but most are from such publications as *The New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal*. You should get into the habit of reading what is assigned to you. You must do the reading and take good notes, or you will not be successful in this class.

**Your summer assignment is as follows:**

1. Take notes, annotate and highlight the first chapter of *American Government: Institutions and Politics*. Our text is the 14<sup>th</sup> edition by Wilson, DiIulio, and Bose. A copy of the chapter is attached here; should you need an additional copy, a scanned version should be available on the Sunnyslope website. Take notes as you normally would. I will be teaching the Cornell method of notetaking. I have used this in all of my AP classes, and students have had success with this method. I have attached a blank page of Cornell notepaper at the end of the chapter.
2. Complete the US Constitution Study Guide. Please do this on your own. We work with the Constitution throughout the year, and you will have a much deeper understanding of it if you do your own work. We will grade the assignment in class the first week of school.
3. Both of these assignments are due the first day we are back to school.
4. I do not require that you purchase an AP review book, but I highly recommend it. You are welcome to purchase any on you prefer, however, I like *Fast Track to a Five*, which aligns with our text.
5. If you need to reach me over the summer, the best way is via email. My address is [Karin.Cummings@guhsdaz.org](mailto:Karin.Cummings@guhsdaz.org). I will be checking it periodically over the break.

Have a great summer, stay safe, and I will see you in August.

Sincerely,

Karin Cummings  
Sunnyslope High School  
Social Studies Dept.