

AP U.S. Government and Politics and AP Microeconomics Application (2020-2021)

Note: You can take one of these courses without taking the other, but since they are the only semester-long AP courses we offer, the vast majority of students take AP Gov 1st semester and AP Macro 2nd semester. For that reason, there is only one application.

Directions: Complete all components of this application and **submit by Friday, March 20th**, to Mr. Adams (Room 99-989; portable). This application does not guarantee your position in this course. Your selection to this course will be contingent on teacher recommendations, past academic performance, completion of summer coursework, and scheduling considerations. Mr. Adams, working in concert with the guidance office, will make all final decisions.

There are some unique characteristics for these courses:

- AP Gov will end in December, 2020, but the AP exam won't be until May, 2021, so it will require initiative on your part to retain your knowledge and prepare for the exam (I will offer study sessions if students are interested).
- Due to senior activities, standardized testing, and other conflicting events that normally occur during the 2nd Semester, our class time for the AP Macro course will be somewhat compressed.

What does this mean? If you are looking for interesting and often enjoyable AP courses, you should seriously consider taking these two. However, if you are looking for "easy" AP courses, these two may not be right for you.

While there are not formal requirements for taking my courses, I guarantee you will struggle in mine or any other AP courses we offer, if you enter your senior year without having completed your community service hours and senior internship.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name and Email: _____

Current Social Studies Class: _____

Current Social Studies Teacher: _____

Grades in that class: 1st 9 weeks _____, 2nd 9 weeks _____, Current (3rd quarter) _____

Current Social Studies Teacher Recommendation: Please print off the last page of this application (AP U.S. Government and Politics and AP Microeconomics Application) and politely ask your current Social Studies teacher to complete it for you by the deadline. Your teacher will place this form in my box in the front office.

Are you currently taking an AP Class? _____ If so, please list the class and your current grade in that class: _____

Are you frequently absent from school? ____ yes ____ no If yes, what are the reasons for these absences? _____

Would you consider yourself to have strong study skills? ___ yes ___ no
Why do you think that? _____

Are you self-motivated? ___ yes ___ no Are you capable of independent study? ___ yes ___ no
Do you have an interest in how our federal government works? ___ yes ___ no

AP courses are very demanding and rigorous. Are you willing to devote study time each day outside of school to be successful in this course? ___ yes ___ no

By taking this course you will be required to take the AP exam at the end of the school year. Passing this exam could result in college credit. Are you willing to do all that you can in order to be successful on the exam? ___ yes ___ no

Are you planning on being involved in extracurricular activities and/or sports next year?
___ yes ___ no If so, what activities/sports? _____

Are you interested in taking both AP Gov and AP Macro? ___ yes ___ no
If not, which one are you most interested in? _____

Why do you wish to be considered for one or both of these courses?

Is there anything not asked on this application that you wish me to consider during the selection process?

Signature

Date: _____

Note: The writing requirement on the following page is for AP Government and Politics. It will suffice for both courses. However, if you are only planning to take AP Macro during the 2nd Semester, see me about the writing requirement.

Mr. Adams
McKeel Academy of Technology
Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics
(Course Code – 2106430)

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Respond to the FRQ prompt below on a separate sheet of paper to serve as an example of your writing skills. Your response should be typed (in 12 pt., Arial font preferred). Staple this essay prompt sheet and your FRQ response to your application. Please have the application on top, this page in the middle, and your typed FRQ response on the bottom when you staple them together for submission.

Read the prompt carefully. Be sure that you answer all parts of the prompt and fully explain/support your responses. While any AP teacher would expect an AP-caliber student to use proper grammar and spelling, I am much more interested in your thought process at this point. I'm a quality vice quantity type of teacher when it comes to writing, so there is no set length requirement. I'm looking for you to tell me what you think and why. As long as you fully explain your responses, length is not an issue. I am not a fan of including a lot of unnecessary fluff in writing.

Free Response Question (FRQ) Prompt:

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) of Topeka, Kansas has been in the news quite often in the last few years. They have made a name for themselves by picketing places and events that have caused outrage by many. While their picketing activities have been peaceful, their words and signs have been anything but. For example, members of the church picket the funerals of dead soldiers carrying signs that say things like “Thank God for Dead Soldiers”, “Thank God for IEDs” (improvised explosive devices), and “Thank God for 9/11”. Their vitriolic hate speech has targeted many minority groups in this country.

In 2013, the WBC picketed four local high school graduations (Lakeland, Haines City, Harrison School for the Arts, and Lake Region) that were held at the Lakeland Center and on Florida Southern College campus, claiming perverts ran the schools. They picketed several Lakeland church services as well (First Baptist, First United Methodist, and St. Joseph Catholic). While these demonstrations were peaceful, they were certainly unpleasant for graduating seniors, their family members, and members of the picketed congregations.

A quick internet search will provide you a wealth of information about the organization if you are unfamiliar with it.

Given the above, address these three related questions:

1. While the actions of the Westboro Baptist Church members may be distasteful, should the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution continue to protect their right to conduct these demonstrations, or should Congress step in and pass laws that would limit their rights to picket funerals, churches, and other seemingly inappropriate places and activities?
2. Should speech be legally curtailed if the majority of people find that speech to be morally reprehensible? Explain.
3. Should there be limits on free speech in general? Why or why not?

Fully explain your responses.

AP U.S. Government and Politics and AP Macroeconomics Teacher Recommendation (2020/21)

Teachers: Please complete this form and return to me by Friday, March 20th. The student will NOT see this completed form or be advised as to what you have recommended. I greatly value your input and what you have to say will weigh very heavily in my decision on whether or not to accept this student.

Student's Name: _____ Current Grade: _____

Is student frequently absent? _____

Please consider the following characteristics of the candidate in making your recommendation:

- Self-motivation and capacity for independent study
- Ability to process a great deal of information in a minimal amount of time (e.g. 18 relatively lengthy chapters in one semester; 6 exams covering three chapters each; one final exam)
- Self-expression in writing and speech
- Ability to focus despite distractions (e.g. missing class for senior internship, testing, etc.)
- Ability to retain information and conduct self-review prior to AP exam (e.g. AP Gov course ends in January but tests in May)
- Exemplary attendance
- Overall dedication and commitment to academics
- Always exceeding expectations

Recommendation: (please initial)

_____ Highly recommended

_____ Recommended

_____ Recommended with reservation (please explain below)

_____ Not recommended (please explain below)

Comments:

Signature

Date: _____