

AP U.S. Government and Politics and AP Microeconomics Application (2022-2023)

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 Sunday, March 7th**, to Mr. Adams. 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, 2022 but the AP exam won't be until May, 2023, 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.

- 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 Macroeconomics 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^[1]_{SEP} Why do you think that?

Are you self-motivated? _____ yes _____ no Are you capable of independent study? _____ yes _____ no^[1]_{SEP}

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?^[L]_[SEP] _____ yes _____ no If so, what activities/sports?

Are you interested in taking both AP Gov and AP Micro? _____ 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?

Date: _____

Signature : _____

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 University 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.