

May 1, 2020

Dear AP US Government and Politics and AP Macroeconomics Students,

Welcome to your favorite Heritage Social Studies classes (well, they may be in your top ten list for sure!). With the world around us in political and economic turmoil, we need to know, now more than ever, how all this works and what impact these key parts of our world can have on our lives. Of course, we have a role to play in that mix as well. What responsibilities might we have and how can we impact our government and economy through our own actions? Living in a democracy and a free-market system, these are fundamental questions to explore.

What should you do this summer to prepare? Mostly you need to make an effort to listen to and follow the media as it covers key political and economic events. The more knowledge and awareness you bring to class this fall the less foreign much of this might sound to you.

The biggest change I am incorporating for this year's government class is asking students to purchase a new textbook that came out this past year. One of the authors, Karen Waples, is a friend of mine and has been helpful to me as I tried to use her book as a learning tool last year. Now, it's time to get moving into the future with a state of the art textbook that has been written to correspond to the new AP US Government and Politics curriculum and assessments. All the old books we used for years at Heritage now seem very much out of date. The book is titled **American Government: Stories of a Nation (For the AP Course)** written by Scott Abernathy and Karen Waples. The publisher is Bedford, Freeman and Worth, Copyright 2019. The ISBN # is: 978-1-319-19536-6. I recommend you check with the publisher first and then compare shop. The publisher price is around \$115, so be wary of other companies that have significantly higher prices. I apologize up front for the cost. I have tried to avoid making this switch for years but now it is time. The old books just can't cut it anymore. Look for used copies (there are a few), the e-book version, or even a rental that could save you money. I will try to have a few for students who can't meet this burden, so let me know this summer if that might be you.

Thank you for your interest in my classes and I truly hope we can meet face to face this fall. I am the senior-most teacher at Heritage, which I like to think means I have lots of experience tied to years of passion for these courses. I promise I will do my best if you do yours.

Have a healthy and restful summer

Sincerely yours,

Jay Grenawalt

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