

## **Advanced Placement Government at James Bowie High School (U. S. Government and Comparative Government)**

AP Government courses are designed for those students who show high levels of aptitude for, interest in, and/or commitment to social studies. Each AP Government course will cover and extend the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in content and depth. Each course is aligned with the College Board's recommendations and prepares students to be successful in future AP courses and in college. Some indicators of success in AP Government courses are the student's skill level in social studies and English, interest in social studies, and previous grades in honors level social studies courses. AP courses focus on not only more content, but also a deeper study of that content.

Because of the additional content and depth of study recommended by the College Board, the pace of AP social studies courses is faster than that of the academic courses. Assessments are rigorous and designed to be done with and without the use of technology. The majority of the course grade is determined by timed tests. Each test will consist of multiple choice and written assessments in the form of free response questions. Written assessments will be either document-based questions (DBQ's) in which primary and/or secondary source documents are used, or fact-based questions (FBQ's).

As you consider taking an AP course, you must also consider academic and extra-curricular commitments. Because of the pace of the course, out-of-class time and preparation is required for success. Students should expect an average of 30 – 60 minutes of homework daily, including reading (text and other), outlining of text, and reviewing notes. Daily attendance is also crucial to success.

It is very important that you and your student select courses for next year with careful consideration. ~~June 10~~ **May 1 will be the absolute deadline for any student or parent to request changes.** This must be done through **written communication** with the data processing office at Bowie. After ~~June 10~~ **May 1, requests for dropping an AP class will not be considered until a student has been in a class for two weeks and then will only be considered in special circumstances. Such requests will go to committee for review and decision.**

It is important that students learn to face challenges and that they understand the meaning of commitment. Furthermore, students' course selections determine the master schedule, the hiring and reassignment of teachers, and the purchase of classroom materials, so we will strictly adhere to these deadlines. Enrolling in AP US Government implies that you understand what is expected of you and that you are making a full commitment to the course for the entire school year.

With their signatures on the James Bowie High School Course Contract, parents and students acknowledge their understanding of the commitment required to succeed in this course.