

# Salem High School

<b>Course Name</b>	Advanced Placement US Government and Politics
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<b>Instructors</b>	Mr. Shamus Mruk
<b>Instructor Contact Info.</b>	smruk@salemk12.org

<b>Summer Assignment Rationale</b>	<p>Students will read the assigned book, this book was chosen because it will highlight for students many of the topics we will learn about and discuss this year.</p> <p>In addition, students will complete a current events journal over the summer so that they are ready to enter into informative discussions on the first day of school pertaining to issues that connect with our government.</p>
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<b>Summer Communication Expectations</b>	The student will . . . Email the teacher with any questions or difficulties.	<b>Target Dates</b>
		Ongoing
	The teacher will . . . Respond promptly to all student concerns and questions.	<b>Target Dates</b>
		Ongoing



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<b>Summary of Assignment</b>	<p>The student will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read <u>Hardball: How Politics Is Played By One Who Knows The Game</u> by Chris Mathews. Students must answer questions for each chapter. There is no length requirement, however, some questions will require a more detailed and substantive answer; therefore the number of paragraphs in your answers will vary. You may hand write or type your answers.</li><li>2. During the course of the summer (beginning the week of July 4th and ending the week of August 29th), keep a current events journal. At the end of each week, type minimum two paragraphs (complete sentences; under 500 words) about a major event or events in American government and/or politics from the past week.</li></ol> <p>In the first paragraph, you should describe the event or events, and, in the second paragraph, you should analyze the significance of it/them and state any opinions, thoughts, or analysis that you might have about it/them. You must intelligently discuss one particularly important issue each week.</p> <p>Your journal should deal with issues that are of significant importance to American politics and government. Such things include what the president is up to, what Congress is debating or legislation that they are passing, constitutional issues or major federal court decisions concerning them, debates over political issues in America, international crises or foreign policy issues that somehow affect the US or that our government must deal with, etc.</p> <p>With each week's entry, you must cite whatever new sources you used in your research.</p>
<b>Attachments and Materials</b>	Students will need a copy of the book <u>Hardball: How Politics Is Played By One Who Knows The Game</u> by Chris Mathews. Students will also need the questions that accompany each chapter.



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<b>Needed to Complete Assignment</b>	Students will also need access to news sources, print, television, internet, etc., in order to complete their current events journal over the summer.
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