2020 Advanced Placement® U.S. Government & Politics

About the AP® U.S. Government & Politics Summer Institute
This course is designed to help both new and experienced teachers organize/reorganize an AP course in U.S. Government and Politics (GOPO), select appropriate materials, determine course content, provide techniques and strategies for teaching the course, and provide a better understanding of the AP exam. The focus of the institute will be the redesigned AP GOPO course which went into effect during the 2018-2019 academic year. With the introduction of the new AP GOPO Curriculum Framework and Exam, teachers will focus on:

• AP GOPO Disciplinary Practices and Reasoning Processes
• Big Ideas in AP GOPO
• Course Units

Goals of the Institute:
• Familiarize participants with the redesigned AP U.S. GOPO Course and the additional resources provided by the College Board (NOTE: NEW online resources available summer 2019)
• Assist participants in preparing an AP GOPO Syllabus for the Course Audit
• Examine a bibliography of materials that can be used and how to incorporate these materials effectively
• Review essential political skills (disciplinary practices and reasoning processes) and develop lesson plans which incorporate those skills
• Explore the 5 units of the new course and suggest methods of organizing course content
• Demonstrate strategies to use in the classroom and writing practices to prepare students to write the redesigned free-response essays
• Develop assessments which measure student progress for the redesigned exam.

Tentative Agenda:
Day One: Understanding the Course
• Welcome to U.S. Government and Politics / Orientation and Introductions, Questions and Concerns / Participant Poll
• Why a Redesign? / Equity and Access
• College Board Materials/Pamela Lamb’s Materials/Google Drive
• Understanding the Course Framework
• Integrating Skills and Content: The Practice of Political Science
• Understanding the Unit Guides
• Spiraling and Scaffolding
• Unit Focus: Unit 1 - Foundations of Democracy

Day Two: Planning Your Course
• Planning your course
• Instructional Approaches
• The National Constitution Center
• Reading and Analyzing the Required Documents
• Analyzing and Interpreting Visuals
• Unit Focus: Unit 2 - Interactions among Branches of Government

Day Three: Teaching the Course
• Analyzing and Comparing Supreme Court Cases
• Analyzing Quantitative Data
• Connect and Apply Concepts
• Writing an Argument Essay
• Unit Focus: Unit 3 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
• Unit Focus: Unit 4 - American Political Culture and Beliefs
• Unit Focus: Unit 5 - Political Participation
Day Four: Pulling It All Together

- Formative and Summative Assessment and Activities
- Applied Learning: The Political Science Research or Applied Civics Project
- The AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam
- Curricular Requirements and Syllabus Development
- Favorite Lessons and Best Practices
- Wrap Up and What’s Next?

Items you should bring during the week include:
- copy of audit syllabus (if available)
- copy of classroom syllabus, including scope and sequence
- district/school academic calendar for 2020-2021
- copy of textbook currently they currently use or plan to use
- laptop/tablet to access the internet
- flash-drive to download and share materials
- a favorite lesson to share
- a best practice to share
- comfortable clothes and shoes for walking in the summer heat
- a light sweatshirt or sweater in case you get chilly in the AC

Instructor:

Pamela K. Lamb has taught AP and Dual Credit U.S. Government (Angelo State University) and Politics and Macroeconomics (Southwest Texas Junior College) at Del Rio High School in Del Rio, Texas. She holds a B.A. in history and a M.A. in both history and political science. She has been teaching for thirty-four years, twenty-nine in AP. Ms. Lamb also teaches history and political science classes at Southwest Texas Junior College and Sul Ross State University, Rio Grande College. Ms. Lamb has served as a reader, table leader and question leader at the U.S. Government and Politics AP reading. Ms. Lamb has been a workshop consultant for the Southwest Regional Office of the College Board since 1994 and received the Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Southwest Region in 2000. She has been recognized by Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers numerous times, received the Harvard Book Club Award and was a HEB Excellence in Teaching semi-finalist in 2008. Ms. Lamb is the author of 5 Steps to a 5: AP* U.S. Government and Politics. In 2018, Ms. Lamb was a contributing author to the Foundational Documents and Court Cases Reader to accompany the textbook American Government: Stories of a Nation.