Dear AP Teachers:

Welcome to the AP US Government and Politics Summer Institute at Western Kentucky University. During our week together (24-28 June 2013), I will be working with you to help you develop a course that uses the College Board’s AP curriculum to reflect the content found in a college-level United States introductory political science course, but working within the constraints and challenges offered by your high school schedule.

Over the course of the week, I will share specific content, lesson plans, teaching strategies, and resources (i.e., textbooks, web sites, videos, outside readings) that you can integrate with your own expertise to put together a challenging, but approachable, course for your students. The week will also give you the opportunity to learn from and share with other teachers and benefit from their knowledge, experience, and insights.

In order to get the most out of the week, please bring the following items to the session: the textbook and reader you are planning to use (if you have already adopted one), your school’s upcoming academic calendar, your favorite lesson plans from this or similar courses, and a favorite video and/or web site that you might want to use for this course. In addition, please think about what you would like to get out of this course and write a list of objectives that you hope will be reached by the end of the week. If you have the time and inclination, please feel free to email me the list as soon as possible (jwehrli37@gmail.com), or if you would like to have a conversation instead, I have included my phone number above.

In my years of teaching high school students, I have found my AP courses the most rewarding for inspiring and encouraging my students to extend themselves academically and intellectually. These courses have also made me grow as an educator and as a lifelong learner. Of all the courses I teach, the AP government courses (US and comparative) are the most challenging—and the most interesting—because the body of material continues to change and grow due to their current events component. Good teachers are never done preparing, and that is especially true in a course such as AP US Government and Politics.

I look forward to meeting you and working with you.

Sincerely,

James Wehrli

James Wehrli, Ph.D.
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