

Advance Placement United States Government and Politics

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Textbook: *Government in America: People, Politics & Policy, 4th Edition*

Course Overview: This course is about the American political system. We will discuss political ideology, the development of the political system and our democratic institutions. Students will be able to evaluate the role of the national government and its relationship to the concept of liberty in a pluralistic society. The discussions will emphasize the changing political culture of American society and its effect on voting patterns, trends and the processes of government. In doing so, we will examine certain critical elections in American history as well as recent political movements. The main thrust of the course, however, is to be able to apply an understanding of our political system to contemporary events.

AP Government and Politics is a highly structured, rigorous college level course. Students will be required to thoroughly read the selected texts as well as to supplement this material through research, outside reading, extra articles, and to then be able to critically apply their findings to the political nature of our current government policies and to analyze ramifications of these policies both domestically as well as internationally. Because we have an exam in the spring, it is essential that a high level academic environment exists at all times. Students must be self-motivated, dedicated to learning and be willing to put forth the necessary effort both in and out of class. It is also important to remember that because you have chosen to enroll in this course, you will be expected to and responsible for turning in quality work while meeting the standards for American government set forth by the state of Georgia.

A major emphasis of the course will be preparation for the AP College Board examination on Thursday May 10, 2018 at 8:00am.

<p>College Credit can also be earned based on your College Board exam score: 5 extremely well qualified; 4 well qualified; 3 = qualified; 2 = possibly qualified; 1 = not qualified. However, these scores MUST accompany a passing score in the class as well. The college of your choice will dictate how that College Board examination score will be credited in your program. THE \$89 EXAMINATION FEE WILL BE PAID BY EACH STUDENT. Most colleges provide credit for scores of 3, 4, or 5.</p>
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Grading Policy: Each assignment will be worth a pre-determined number of points. The size and importance of the assignment will determine the number of possible points. Grades in this class will be determined using the following percentages:

Grading Scale	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
71-79	C
70	D
0-69	F

Task Type	Percentage
Summative Assessments	50%
Formative Assessments	30%
Midterm/Final	20%

Testing: Testing will be designed to simulate the types of questions you will see on the AP exam. You will usually see a 50-50 split in multiple choice and essay. Multiple choice questions will be more analytical than rote memory. The essays will test your knowledge by making you apply it through an interpretive and analytical process. In some cases the test will be composed of all essay questions. You will be expected to finish within the allotted class time due to the time constraints placed on the AP exam. Tests will be assigned as far in advance as possible to allow for proper preparation and study guides will be distributed to aid in test preparation. You be expected to complete reading assignments without being prompted to do so. Test material may be taken from this material, even if it has not been thoroughly discussed in class.

Essays: All essays assigned out of class will be typed in a 12 font with 1" margins. You will be expected to use proper grammar, spelling, and documentation of sources. You will develop a thesis, support your position with evidence, and develop a viable conclusion in your essays. They will be assigned at various times throughout the semester, with some being graded by me while others will be peer edited.

Current Events: Throughout the course, we will be examining current events as they relate to the major issues discussed in class. Students will be expected to keep an updated current events journal, with a topic to be assigned each week. Journals will be collected and articles will be collected periodically. By the end of the semester, students will be expected will be collected and articles will be collected periodically. By the end of the semester, students will be expected to have completed 25 current events

Supplemental Readings: Students will be required to read, interpret, and analyze magazines, newspapers, and watch informative news channels in order to maintain a well-rounded view of important issues. At times, these issues will be controversial in nature. Students will be required to listen to and interpret opposing points of view and to treat this with respect. The theories and issues will be examined in a lot of different ways. You will be exposed to the various ideological points of view, and will be asked to analyze and interpret them. By doing this, you can expand the horizons of your learning and become more tolerant of other points of view, even if you don't agree!

Make-up exams and Retakes: If you have a valid reason for missing an exam you may schedule a make-up. Make-up work is your responsibility to complete.

Academic Integrity: Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question.

<p>Unit 1: Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapter 1, 2, and 3 • Federalist Papers #23, #47, #51, #72, #78 • Lanahan Text- pp. 43-48, pp. 121-125 <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting recent legislation to chapter 1, “Razing Arizona” • Practicing free response essays • Presenting a Federalist Paper 	<p>Dates</p> <p>August 7, 2017 – September 1, 2017</p>
<p>Unit 2: Political Culture and Mass Media</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapter 6, 7, 11 • Lanahan Text- pp. 88-95, 49-55, 461-463 <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading graphs and tables for public opinion • Investigative reporting and All the President’s Men • Political legitimacy & the Daily Show with Jon Stewart • Content analysis of the media 	<p>September 4, 2017 – September 29, 2017</p>
<p>Unit 3: Political Parties and Electoral Process</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapters 8, 9, 10 • Lanahan Text: #68 Government 2.0 by William Eggers, #72 Why Americans Still Don’t Vote by Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, #63 Who Will Tell the People by William Greider <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latino politics in America • Deciding a political party • Political party board game • Living room candidate • Electoral college demo and electoral college reform 	<p>October 2, 2017 – October 20, 2017</p>

<p>Unit 4-6: Institutions & Branches of Government (Legislative, Executive and Federal Bureaucracy)</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapters 12-15 • Lanahan text- pp. 168-174, 180-182, 199-204, 231-238, 249-255, 607-611 <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congressional powers and Congressional profile • Gerrymandering exercise • Bill development • Presidential roles and cabinet • Impeachment fishbowl 	<p>October 23, 2017 – November 17, 2017</p> <p>November 27, 2017 – December 15, 2017</p> <p>January 3, 2018 – January 19, 2018</p>
<p>Unit 7: Public Policy</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapters 17, 18, 19 • Lanahan text- pp. 545-558, 564-570, 577, 580-583, 595-598, 610-611, 637-646. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget game • Social welfare programs, policies and monetary theories • Economic policies of political parties • Foreign policy and international trade 	<p>January 22, 2018 – February 9, 2018</p>
<p>Unit 8: The Federal Courts</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapter 16 • Selected Supreme Court Decisions <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court Simulation • Supreme Court case research 	<p>February 12, 2018 – March 9, 2018</p>
<p>Unit 9: Civil Right and Civil Liberties</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government in America Text- Chapters 4, 5, 16 • Lanahan text- pp. 283-286, 375-379, 342-349 <p>Activities:</p>	<p>March 12, 2018 – March 30, 2018</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patriot Act fishbowl• Bill of Rights research• 19th Amendment, women suffragists, & Iron Jawed Angels• Who's on the bench?	
AP Exam Review	April 9, 2018- May 9, 2018 AP TEST- THURSDAY MAY 10, 2018