

Advanced Placement American Government & Politics
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

AP American Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project (AP College Board)

Course Content:

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy (4-5 weeks)

- The Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Federalism

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government (9-10 weeks)

- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Federal Bureaucracy
- The Judicial Branch
- Policy Making

Unit 3: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights (7-8 weeks)

- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Required Supreme Court Cases

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies & Beliefs (4-5 weeks)

- The Political Spectrum
- Public Opinion
- Role of Mass Media

Unit 5: Political Participation (4-5 weeks)

- Political Parties
- Nominations & Campaigns
- Interest Groups

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Edwards, G.E. Wattenberg, M.P., & Lineberry, R.L. (2006). *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy* (12th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson

Required Foundational Documents: These documents will be read and analyzed for their relevance to topics and concepts that we will be examining throughout the course. Students will also be expected to use evidence from these documents to support their written arguments in response to free-response assessment questions.

- *The Declaration of Independence*
- *The Articles of Confederation*
- *The U.S. Constitution including the Bill of Rights and all other Amendments*
- *Federalist No. 10*
- *Federalist No. 51*
- *Federalist No. 70*
- *Federalist No. 78*
- *Brutus No. 1*
- *Letter from a Birmingham Jail (Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

Course Project

Students must complete a course project that requires them to apply course concepts to real-world political issues, processes, institutions and policy making.

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be determined by the number of points a student earns out of the total points assigned throughout the marking period.

Late work will only be accepted one class period after the due date for no more than 50% credit. Work submitted more than one class period after the due date will not be accepted.

There will be a minimum of eight graded assignments for each marking period.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final Exam	20%

AP U.S. Government & Politics
Summer Work 2021-2022

The summer work will consist of two components:

The **first** will require you to become more familiar with our Constitution.

The **second** will require you to become familiar with a set of foundational documents that College Board considers essential to your understanding of the guiding principles and beliefs behind our federal government.

All summer work should be posted on the Google Classroom. The join code is **rfyuiwx**

1. Constitution Assignment

Read the US Constitution. A copy is provided on the Google Classroom. Understanding the Constitution and what it provides is the foundation to this course. Complete the Constitution assignment on the Google Classroom, which consists of answering basic questions about the structure of the federal government, the powers of the various branches and how they function. There will also be questions about some of the more significant amendments. **This assignment must be completed and turned in on the Google Classroom before the start of the first day of classes.**

2. Foundational Documents Assignment

The following documents are listed by College Board as being important to your understanding of the underpinnings of our federal government and will appear on the AP test. That means you must be familiar with the following aspects of each document and answer these four questions for each document. **Your work must be posted on the Google Classroom assignment by the start of the first day of classes.** Links for each document will be provided on the Google Classroom.

Who wrote it?

What was the purpose?

What is discussed?

Why is important to us today?

1. Federalist No. 10
2. Brutus No. 1
3. The Declaration of Independence
4. The Articles of Confederation
5. The US Constitution and Bill of Rights
6. Federalist No. 51
7. Letter from a Birmingham Jail (MLK)
8. Federalist No. 70
9. Federalist No. 78

We will spend the first week or two of school discussing the Constitution and these documents. **We will have an assessment on your knowledge of the Constitution by the end of the second week of school.**
We will have a quiz on the foundational documents on the first day of school.

Please do not hesitate to email me throughout the summer if you have any questions about these assignments. The purpose of these assignments is to give you a head start in addressing the knowledge based aspect of the course so we can spend more time on analysis and application during the school year. Enjoy your summer!

Mr. Beaupre

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