

AP Government & Politics

Teacher Expectations		Student Expectations and Learning Outcomes
Recommended Preparation: APUSH A/B/C, US Hist A/B		Students are expected to be able to analyze data related to major areas of politics and use it to make arguments in favor or against issues facing the political system today. They will use charts, graphs, polls numbers and Supreme Court cases to gather their information for the following areas we will be examining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American system of government and its origins • Political opinions, interests, and behaviors • Political organizations, to include parties, interest groups and mass media • The institutions of government and their role in making and enforcing public policy • Civil liberties and civil rights • Primary source materials and contemporary news analyses
Average HW Time: 5-6 Per week w/ Reading		
After-school Labs and Study Sessions: N/A		
Activities: (Place X next to) Group Projects X Individual Projects X Lab Reports Textbook Reading X Textbook Notes X Research X Primary and Secondary Source Analysis X Use of Technology X Google Classroom X Essays X Short Answers X	Important information that students need to know about this course: This class involves extensive discussion and class participation. This course fulfills the graduation requirement for Economics and Government.	

About AP Government & Politics

Course Overview

AP United States Government and Politics is a college level course offered to students who wish to be academically challenged and plan to take the AP exam in the spring. It is a survey course that provides an introduction into the operation of American national government.

Course Learning Objectives

At the completion of AP United States Government and Politics, the student will be able to identify and explain the formation, function, players, organizations, and institutions that make up the American system of government based on the following themes:

- U.S. Constitution—the U.S. Constitution is a living document that revolves around interpretations of our democratic ideals.
- Civil Rights and Liberties—the government's responsibility is to protect civil rights and liberties for all citizens.
- Federalism—our government is more responsive to the people due to the division of power between the states and the federal government.
- Separation of Powers—distributing political authority among three branches of government protects against potential abuse of power through a system of checks and balances.
- Civic Responsibilities—A democratic government's ability to protect every one's rights requires the participation of citizens in the political process.
- The Media's Role—the media has a great amount of influence on American politics.

Format of the AP Government & Politics Test

Section I: Multiple Choice 60 Questions 45 Minutes 50 % of Exam Score

- Demonstrate understanding of major course concepts, policies and institutions
- Apply skills of comparison and interpretation in addition to factual recall

Section II: Free Response 4 Questions 100 Minutes 50 % of Exam Score

- Define concepts and explain or interpret content across all course topics
- Analyze political relationships and evaluate policy changes using examples from the course to support the argument or response