

ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT & POLITICS: UNITED STATES
GRADE 12
(2 Semesters)

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Advanced Placement course in American Government is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government in the United States. The course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret American politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the American political reality. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement examination at the conclusion of the course. Successful completion of this course will fulfill the graduation requirement for American Government.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

- UNIT I - Introduction and Background to American Constitutional Government
- UNIT II - Federalism
- UNIT III - Political Attitudes and Socialization
- UNIT IV - Political Parties, Elections, and Interest Groups
- UNIT V - The Presidency
- UNIT VI - Presidential Elections
- UNIT VII - Congress
- UNIT VIII - The Judiciary
- UNIT IX - Bureaucracy and Policy
- UNIT X - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

STUDENT OUTCOMES

1.	Develop a critical perspective on politics and government in the United States. (14A, 14C, 14D, 16B)
2.	Analyze case studies like Nixon's China policy and the election of 1948. (14D, 16B)
3.	Become familiar with the institutions of government in the United States as well as the groups beliefs and ideas that make up the American political reality. (14D, 16B, 16D)
4.	Understand the nature and expectations of a college level course of this type.

5.	Complete extensive readings from varied sources on the issues involved in American politics. (14D, 16B)
6.	Exhibit the learning of ideas through group work, seminars, research papers and other assessments. Analyze rights as granted by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. (14D, 16B)
7.	

MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

1.	Extensive preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam.
2.	Fulfill the requirements of a college level course of this type.
3.	Bureaucracy simulation.
4.	Presidential Act Analysis.
5.	Presidential Election research paper.
6.	Congressional Bill analysis.
7.	Supreme Court case studies.
8.	Timed debates on select subjects.
9.	Current event analysis.

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

Wilson, James Q. <i>American Government: Institutions and Policies</i> , 7th ed. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath and Co., 1999. (Adopted, 2000)
Woll, Peter, ed. <i>American Government: Readings and Cases</i> , 11th ed. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1993. (Adopted, 1995)
McKenna, George, and Feingold, Stanley, eds. <i>Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Political Issues</i> , 9th ed. Guildford, CT: Dushkin Publishing Group, 1995. (Adopted, 1995)
Herbert Levine, ed. <i>Point Counterpoint</i> , New York, NY: St. Martins Press, 1998.
Additional selected readings from current periodicals and journals.

(01/21/03)

(04/28/00)