

AP U.S. Government and Politics

This college-level course is designed to promote higher-level thinking skills so students can analyze essential concepts pertinent to U.S. Government and Politics. The subject matter that will be covered in this course will help prepare students for the AP Exam. All information contained in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Contact Information:

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School Number 661-533-9000

Text and Materials

Classroom Text

1. American Government 16e (Wilson) ISBN 978-1-337-61350-7

Supplemental –

- Foundational documents (provided by the instructor)
- Studyguide book (Barons) provided in class
- Studyguide book (extra Credit if you buy one by the last day of school in September)

Website

- Coachflu.org

Course Plan

This course is organized into five units, each addressing the major concepts covered in the AP Course Perspective for AP U.S. Government and Politics. The assigned chapter readings, listed in the course outline, are organized according to its appropriate unit of study.

Assignments

1. Daily Warm-ups or basic classroom assignment or class type projects.
 - a. Will include, but are not limited to: analyzing graphs and data, evaluating primary sources, making predictions/brainstorming, reviewing and discussing special topics and/or current events.
2. Projects/Essays/Quizzes/Vocab Quizzes
 - a. Mini-projects and/or essays will be assigned for each unit throughout the semester.
 - b. Weekly quizzes will be administered throughout the semester.
 - c. Each Topic will have a vocabulary quiz. Vocab lists are provided on the website.
3. Current Events

Students are expected to start to pay attention to the daily news in regards to the political world around them. Current events in politics will be discussed during class.
4. Unit Tests
 - a. Unit tests will be given at the end of each unit. The tests will consist of multiple choice and/or free-response questions.

5. Papers: There are two papers assigned. A 10-12 political ideology paper as well as a 3 page Constitutional influences paper.
6. Civic Engagement project

Grading Scale: Tests and projects are weighted at 60%, Quizzes, Analytical Papers and KBATS are weighted at 30%, and Homework, Classwork, Signatures and Current Events are 10% of your grade.

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
Less than 60% = F

Semester Grade: Your semester grade will be determined as follows: Each quarter in the semester will account for 40% of the grade, and the semester final will account for 20% of your grade (40%+40%+20%=Semester grade).

Required Supplies:

Blue **OR** black **AND** red ballpoint pens
Number 2 pencils
College-ruled notebook paper
3x5 white, lined note cards
Spiral notebook or Composition notebook (1)

Late-work Policy: If you are absent the day an assignment is given, you will have the same number of days to complete the assignment as the rest of class did (**as long as it was an excused absence**). **All of my lesson plans are posted on my website, under the A.P. Schedule and Resources pages. If you are absent, you have access to everything that you missed in class, and should make every effort to complete the work and turn it in upon arrival in class.** You are to turn in your work on your own initiative – I will not ask for it. If you are absent for a quiz or test, you are responsible for setting up a make –up date, with me, within one week of the assessment. If you fail to do this, you earn a zero on the assessment. It is your responsibility to make up the assessment.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means using, utilizing, incorporating, or paraphrasing any information that is not your own. Your homework and/or projects must be **COMPLETELY** original. Plagiarism is not tolerated and will result in a “0” on the assignment, a loss of all participation/citizenship points for the quarter, a phone call or e-mail home, and a referral to Administration. A second offense will result in being dropped from the class with an F.

Closing

I understand that during the school year there are a variety of events that can happen that may hinder your ability to complete homework and/or stay focused in class. I strongly encourage you to let me know of situations whether it be technical difficulty, struggling with school in general, or other difficulties. I can not help and be flexible if I do not know what is going on.

I know that we will have a great semester and I look forward to having the opportunity to guide you down the road of U.S. government. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or schedule a time to come in and chat.

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