



IDEA College Prep Edinburg

AP United States Government and Politics

Syllabus

Fall 2024



"Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy... Both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me."

– Michael Scott

"If all men were angels, no government would be necessary."

– James Madison

Teacher: Mr. Mark Anzaldua

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Room: A116

I. AP Government Course Description

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a college-level course providing analysis and evaluation of contemporary political concepts and issues related to American government. The knowledge of political concepts will be applied to understand how the government process works and assist in analyzing political behaviors and consequences.

The main objective of the course is for students to become well-informed and efficient citizens. Students will develop more political efficacy while coming to understand their political viewpoints and beliefs. and synthesizing concepts is essential in succeeding at the college level.

COURSE OUTLINE (this is the order that units will be covered)

Foundations of American Democracy – Unit 1

Political Theories

The Development and Goals of the Constitution

The Branches of American Government: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances

Federalism: National and State Political Relationships

American Political Ideologies – Unit 4

The Citizen and the Government

Political Efficacy

Public Opinion

Political Ideologies and Influences Voting and Elections

Political Participation – Unit 5

Political Parties

Interest Groups and Political Action Committees

Mass Media

Interactions Among Branches of Government – Unit 2

Congress

The Presidency

Federal Bureaucracy

Federal Judiciary System

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights – Unit 3

Provisions of Bill of Rights and Interpretations

The 14th Amendment: Due Process Clause and Equal Protection Clause

Judicial Influence

AP GOVERNMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Identifies – In-depth knowledge and understanding of various vocabulary and concepts in order to facilitate learning throughout the course. Selected terms from the AMSCO book and Edwards textbook will be assigned as the Identifies. Due dates will be given in class or Teams. Identifies are available for download on Teams Class Page.

Case Briefs – A breakdown of landmark Supreme Court cases concentrating on legal issues and highlighting constitutional and political effects. They also include “Companion Cases” for comparative analysis.

Multiple Choice Tests – Use of AP-style and college-level questions that mirror the types of questions students will encounter on the AP exam. Assessed based on AP-style scoring.

Free Response Questions (FRQs) – Development of arguments and ability to use appropriate factual knowledge; organization and analytical skills will be practiced. FRQs will include a Concept Application prompt, a Quantitative Analysis prompt, and a Supreme Court Comparison prompt. FRQs will be assessed based on AP-style scoring. FRQs must be written in black pen.

Class Companion & Albert Platforms – In our AP Government class, we will utilize the Class Companion AI platform to enhance your learning experience. This innovative tool will provide personalized study plans, interactive quizzes, and instant feedback to help you master key political concepts. You can ask the AI for explanations of complex topics, receive summaries of current events, and get recommendations for additional resources tailored to your needs. The platform also facilitates group discussions and collaborative projects, allowing you to engage with classmates in meaningful ways. By integrating AI into our curriculum, we aim to support your academic success and prepare you thoroughly for the AP exam.

In-Class Discussion Notes & Reading Guides – Concentrate on important facts, concepts, and processes when reading. Class notes are required to be taken during lectures and discussions. Reading guides should be completed as you read required readings.

AP Classroom Daily Assignments – Students will have a daily assignment that will be completed in AP Classroom. They are either due by the end of the period or by the end of the school day. Students will be given time toward the end of the period in order to complete the daily assignment. It is your responsibility to have your AP Classroom login information. Forgetting your login credentials is not an acceptable excuse for not completing assignments on time. Any late assignment will have a 40-point deduction.

Mock Exam – Practice exam given prior to the AP exam with multiple choice questions and free-response questions.

Projects – There will be several assigned projects throughout the semester. Each will have their own specific guidelines but most projects will need to be completed outside of class.

THE AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS EXAM FORMAT

| Question Type | Number Of | Time | Percentage of Score |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| Multiple Choice | 55 | 80 minutes | 50% |
| Free-Response | 4 | 100 minutes | 50% |
| Concept Application Question | | | 12.5% |
| Quantitative Analysis Question | | | 12.5% |
| Supreme Court Comparison Question | | | 12.5% |
| Argumentation Essay | | | 12.5% |

The government exam will be given on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 12:00PM**. Students are expected to take the exam. All exam costs have already been paid by the school, take this opportunity to earn college credit for free. The microeconomics exam will be on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 12:00PM. All exams will be administered online.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE AND EXAM DESCRIPTION (CED)

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-us-government-and-politics-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

II. AP Classroom

We will use AP Classroom for daily assignments such as exit tickets. This will allow you and your parents to track your overall mastery of course content. It is your responsibility to have your login info up to date and ready to login each day to complete daily assignments.

III. Lesson Cycle and Classroom Procedures (*Expectations*):

All students are expected to follow all established classroom & school procedures and policies. In class discussions, group work, and submit assignments on time. As you walk into class each day, you will pick up a lesson packet, sit at your assigned seat, and immediately begin working on the Do Now. Any further instructions will be displayed on the board or printed on your lesson packet.

IV. Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to complete their own work. There is a big difference between helping each other with questions with an assignment and getting someone's assignment with the purpose of copying everything word-for-word. With the rise of AI, it is important to understand that the use of these programs equates to academic dishonesty, specifically plagiarism/cheating. This includes using AI resources such as ChatGPT or other AI programs that do similar tasks. The use of these programs is no different than having someone else complete your assignments for you – this is cheating and the consequences will be severe. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and your parents will be called. Students will be allowed to complete an alternate assignment; however, the best possible grade for the alternative assignment will range between 50 – 70, depending on the frequency of the infraction. When someone violates this policy, it shows a lack of respect for your teacher and yourself as a student. If this were to occur in college, your professor can recommend you to the Dean of Students for removal from the University or College. This will remain on your record and every college/university you apply to will be aware of it. I have seen this occur and it can have long-term consequences.

V. Textbooks

Government in America: People, Politics, & Policy (18th edition)

AMSCO Advanced Placement Edition United States Government and Politics (3rd edition)

VI. Supplies (Always have these in your possession, do not leave anything behind in the classroom)

3-ring Binder (1 inch to 3 inch)

3-hole Folder – to be kept in your binder

5-tab separators

Black and blue pens

Pencils

Highlighter

Notecards and Card Case/Ring Holder

Textbook

VII. Binder

Students are required to maintain a binder and bring it with them to class every day. Binders will be set up the first week of school and will hold all the information from the course. Students are expected to keep their completed reading guides and vocabulary in specific sections of their binder. Binder checks will usually occur on the day of Unit Exams but there may be pop-binder checks sprinkled throughout the year so always be ready! These will be major grades in this class.

VIII. Absences

If a student is absent, they are required to bring a note from their parents or doctor on the day they return to school which explains why they are absent. It will be up to our Registrar to determine if the absence will be excused or unexcused. If a student does not turn in an assignment due to an EXCUSED absence, he or she has 5 school days to submit it for full credit. For formative assignments, a deduction of ten points will occur for every day that the assignment is late; for example, the highest possible grade on formative assignments turned in on the 7th day will be an 80. Summative assessments missed, such as a Unit Exam, must be taken within 3 days of the absence. ***This applies to any late work submitted.**

IX. Electronic Policy

Electronic use in my classroom is not allowed. If a student has their device out during class, it will be picked up and given to the API. Using electronics during class is blatantly disrespectful to me during class and it is a distraction from learning. Moreover, using electronics in class without permission violates IDEA Public School Student Code of Conduct and Edinburg CP Campus Policy. Electronic devices include cell phones, smart watches like Apple or Samsung Watch, Airpods, Earbuds, Tablets, and Laptops. Make sure ALL OF THESE DEVICES are put away in your backpack **BEFORE** you enter my classroom.

This is the only warning you will get when it comes to this policy! If you use a tablet or laptop for note taking, that is acceptable – just let me know.

There will be times during the year when you will need to use your laptop but you will know a day in advance so you can plan accordingly.

X. Food and Drink Policy

There will be no food, snacks, or drinks allowed in the classroom at any time. Absolutely Nothing! There are ants in this building and we are trying to avoid attracting them into the classroom. Leave these items in your locker or in your bag, and make sure these items remain out of sight during class. If you come to class with Starbucks, drinks, or any food, you must either dispose of it in the trash or leave it outside of the room. Water is ok. Any questions about this policy can be discussed with myself or the API/Principal. There will also be no selling of food, snacks, or drink of any kind in the classroom as per IDEA district and Edinburg CP campus policy. Any selling of items will be reported to the API and Principal.

XI. Class Discussions

This course has the unique opportunity to have class discussions that may involve controversial topics. Class discussions around these issues help students develop a deeper understanding of them and how they relate to course concepts. Everyone has a right to have their own views and opinions on these topics. My classroom is a safe space for all viewpoints and everyone's views will be respected. Name calling, bullying, or any other forms of negative discourse toward a student for their viewpoints will be seen as harassment and will be reported as such to the GTL, API, and parent as per campus policy.

XII. Grading Policy

In keeping with college expectations, student's grades will be calculated using the following breakdown:

Summative Assessments - 55%

- Unit Exams
- Projects
- Additional assignments may be added to this category at teacher discretion*

Formative Assessments - 45%

- Reading Guides
- AP Classroom Daily Assignments (FYI: some may be taken as a summative***)
- Weekly Participation Grades
- Do Now/Exit Ticket Grades
- Any other classwork assigned in class

XIII. Assigned Reading and Reading Quizzes

It is crucial to keep up with assigned readings from the course textbook because they will help you build a deeper understanding of important topics and how they relate to government and politics. Most of the class time will be spent engaging in discussions and activities; this means that you will need to have done your readings prior to class and be familiar with the content so that you can be most productive. In addition, there will be reading quizzes given to ensure that all students are being held accountable for their assigned reading due dates. Some quiz dates will be listed however the majority will be unannounced.

XIV. Suggested Readings for Additional Understanding

It is also suggested that students avail themselves of several news-oriented broadcasts in order to be prepared for class discussions. These are also a great supplementary source for your current event component of the course. The following television and radio broadcasts are suggested (times are CST):

1. Any of the 3 national, daily evening newscasts (NBC, ABC, CBS 5:30 PM)
2. NewsNation is a good source for latest current events and political news (it has a center-left leaning bias but is still reliable; can be found on youtube and streaming services such as hulu and sling)
3. No Spins News is also a good source for political news and commentary (it has a center-right leaning bias but is still fact based and reliable; can be found on youtube or billoreilly.com)
4. Any of the Sunday morning network news broadcasts:
 - “This Week” (ABC, 9:30-10:00 AM, Ch. 5)
 - “Face the Nation” (CBS, 10:30-11:00 AM, Ch. 4)
 - “Meet the Press” (NBC, 10:30-11:00 AM, Ch. 5)
 - "Fox News Sunday" (Fox News, 8:00-9:00AM, Ch. 37)
 - "Fareed Zakaria GPS" (CNN, 9:00-10:00AM, Ch. 35)
5. Also excellent are various political discussion programs found on CNN, C-SPAN, and C-SPAN 2
6. National Public Radio (NPR, 90.1 FM, *Morning Edition*, 5:00-9:00 AM weekdays and *All Things Considered*, 3:00-6:30 PM weekdays)
7. There are also a wide variety of short podcasts that are very useful in understanding current events and politics.



****Remember, this syllabus and examination dates are subject to change if determined by your teacher.**

AP Microeconomics

***I will provide you an updated course schedule in the Spring with Assigned Readings for Microeconomics.**

XV. Remind Application

Please ensure you have downloaded the application in order to receive all official correspondence. Our 12th Grade Team will send out reminders for important dates and announcements. More information will also be shared via parent weekly.



Teacher Acknowledgement

As your teacher, I am committed to fostering a positive, safe, and engaging learning environment for every student. I firmly believe that all students have the potential to succeed and can overcome any challenge with the right tools and support. My goal is to help you navigate these challenges and equip you with the skills necessary for success in both school and life.

I pledge to act with integrity, fairness, and equity, and I am always ready to assist with any needs you or your families may have to ensure your success in my class. Know that I will always advocate for your best interests and do everything within my power to support your learning journey.

If there is anything I can do to help you become a better scholar, please do not hesitate to reach out. Remember, while many things in life can be taken away, your education is yours forever. Make the most of it and strive for greatness!

Parent & Student Acknowledgement

I have reviewed and understand the information presented in the course syllabus, and I have discussed it with my dedicated scholar. I recognize that my child is an IDEA student enrolled in an Advanced Placement course designed to be equivalent to a first-year college course. While the expectations are high, I am confident in my child's ability to meet these challenges and succeed in their final year at IDEA Edinburg.

To support my child's success, I will:

- Maintain open communication with the instructor.
- Ensure my student attends class on time and is present each day.
- Monitor their behavior and coursework grades through PowerSchool.
- Provide the necessary supplies and textbooks.
- Collaborate with IDEA staff to ensure assignments are completed.
- Ensure my student stays for tutoring sessions when assigned or offered.

Student signature

Parent/Guardian Signature



Date _____



Parent Contact number _____
