

AP United States Gov't

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Twitter – USHistory1

I. Course Description

The Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics program is designed to teach U.S. constitutional government based on principles of philosophy, political beliefs and behavior, political parties and interest groups, national institutions, policy processes, and law. Occasionally I'll make stuff up.

Required Text: Schmidt, Steffen, et al. *American Government and Politics Today*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007. www.wadsworth.com

Useful Resource: *Free Public Library Card (plcmc.org)

Supplemental Text: Serow, Ann and Ladd, Everett, ed. *The Lanahan Readings in American Polity*. Third edition. Baltimore: Lanahan Publishers, Inc. 2003.

Recommended Resources: AP United States Government and Politics Exam Study Guides

II. Students should bring the following supplies to class every day

- Spiral notebook or college lined paper
- Blue or Black Pen and a pencil
- 1-2 inch, three-ring binder

III. Rules and Expectations

- a. Be on time.
- b. Bring all materials to class every day.
- c. Treat others with respect and courtesy, even if they're acting like a jerk.
- d. Give your best effort every day.
- e. No electronic devices unless given permission. Seriously. Just don't. There is a reason George Washington didn't have a cell phone.

IV. Attendance and Make-up Work

- 1) Students are allowed five days to turn in an assignment with an EXCUSED absence. It is the student's obligation to approach the teacher immediately when they return. (CMS Policy)
- 2) Students with UNEXCUSED absences should see the teacher per CMS policy. More than 10 such absences will lead to a failure.
- 3) Grading is final at the close of each grading period. Period. So come early with questions, concerns, bribes, threats, etc.

V. Extra Help

Please feel free to talk to me if you need help or do not understand an assignment.

Remember, I am not a mind reader! If you need help, you have to ask. Tutoring will be offered at pre-arranged times.

VI. Grading Policy

The long awaited new grading scale is as follows:

90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 59 or Lower F

Formal – 70% There will be a minimum of four assessments every quarter. Any assessment may include multiple choice, short answer, free response and document-based essay questions. Assessments will count for 70% of the final grade. Projects can qualify as an assessment based on their complexity.

Informal – 30% Other assignments may include homework, classwork, quizzes and participation. All will account for 30% of a student's final grade. Class participation will be determined through comments, helpfulness, behavior, preparation, and whether or not you have angered the teacher. Quizzes can be given without advance notice. Some quizzes may not be counted at the teacher's discretion.

VII. Homework

THERE IS ALWAYS HOMEWORK. It misses you. It cries when left alone. It's very sad. Don't make me report you for leaving your homework in a hot car with the windows rolled up.

VIII. Supplemental Resources:

A. Primary Sources: Students will examine various primary sources during the course of each unit. These may include *Two Treatises upon Government* John Locke, *The Social Contract* -Jean Rousseau, *Democracy in America* -Alexis de Touqueville, *Common Sense* -Thomas Paine, Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution including its amendments, Mayflower Compact, Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, various state constitutions, and the *Federalist Papers* (particularly 51, 10, & 78).

B. Legal Cases: Students will be required to read various legal cases throughout this course. Students will write a "brief" for each legal case assigned, which will include the issue presented in the case, the law applied to that issue, the rationale the court used when applying the law to that issue, and the holding or ruling in that case.

Marbury v. Madison and McCulloch v. Maryland, *US v. Nixon*, *Baker v. Carr*, *Bush v. Gore*, *US Term Limits v. Thornton*, *Wesberry v. Sanders*, *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Shaw v. Reno*, *U.S. v. Lopez*, *Clinton v. Lopez*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *New York v. Quarles*, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, *Gitlow v. New York*, *Palko v. Connecticut*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Griswald v. Connecticut*.

C. Legislation: Students will examine various pieces of legislation as it applies to each course of study. Emphasis will be on discussion of the intent of the legislation, content of comments, discussion, the debate surrounding passage of the legislation, and what portions of the legislation are broadly worded leaving interpretation on execution and enforcement to the executive branch. Legislation to be examined: Federal Election Campaign Finance Acts (1971-1974), McCain-Feingold Bill (2002), Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Bill (1985), War Powers Act (1973), Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (1996), Budget and Impoundment Control Act (1974), Freedom of Information Act (1974), Hatch Act (1939), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Title IX of the Education Act of 1972, Voting Rights Act of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1968, Age Discrimination in Employment Act 1967, Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990, Americans with Disabilities Act, 2960, Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995; National Voter Registration Bill; various congressional ethics rules; The Judiciary Act of 1789;

D. Supplemental Readings and Materials:

Governmental Agency Websites
Political Cartoons
Statistical Graphs and Charts

Current News Materials – (The *New York Times*, The *Washington Post*, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and other broadcasts and on-line news sources)

*Get into the habit of closely examining visuals (statistical graphs, charts, political cartoons, etc.). There is ONE FRQ that will be based on your ability to analyze and respond to such visuals and a number of multiple-choice questions will include visuals.

XI. Standard Curriculum Goals / Units and Pacing

Scheduled Time	Units	Chapters
Days		
5-7	Constitutional Underpinnings of U.S. Government	1 & 2
3-5	American Federalism	3
5-7	Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	4 & 5
3-5	Public Opinion & Political Socialization	6
3-5	Interest Groups	7
3-5	American Political Parties	8
3-5	Campaigns & Elections	9
3-5	The Media and American Politics	10
5-7	Congress	11
5-7	The Presidency	12
5-7	The Federal Bureaucracy	13
5-7	The Judiciary	14
3-5	Domestic Policy	15
3-5	Economic Policy	16
3-5	Foreign Policy	17
	Exam Prep	

XIII. Cell Phone Policy:

Unless approved, don't pull out a cell phone in class. This is especially true during tests or quizzes. While we encourage technology in the classroom on with Chrome Books, camera/texting is strictly forbidden. Please do not do something stupid. There was a reason George Washington didn't have a cell phone and Thomas Jefferson never texted anyone during class. Just saying...

XIV. Final Exam:

At the completion of the course, students will take an AP issued final exam on Thursday, May 10th of 2018. The exam will include both multiple choice and essay questions. You will not be asked to write a novel but if you paid attention in class, you could.

XV. Videos and DVD's:

Permission below will be required to take full advantage of videos, including "Movie Nights" and special showings. Your signature below signifies your consent to showing historical related content to your student. Some possible selections include, but are not limited to:

- "The Century" with Peter Jennings. ABC News
- "The American Revolution" parts 1 and 6. A&E
- All the President's Men, , Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, The West Wing, and other excerpts.

XVI. Academic Honesty:

Any work you turn in must be your own. Any time you use another person's words, answers or ideas, you must give proper credit to that person by citing their work. I assume that you are honest so please do not prove me wrong. If you're going to cheat, make sure your friend has the right answer to avoid both of you looking dishonest and uninformed at the same time.

By signing, student and parent agree to abide by the expectations set forth above.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Name: (Please Print) _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____