

Course Title: AP Government

Board Approval Date: January 7, 2020

Credit / Hours: 1.0

Course Description: AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:

The updated AP U.S. Government and Politics framework included in the CED outlines distinct skills, called disciplinary practices, that students should practice throughout the year—practices that will help them learn to think and act like political scientists.

1. Concept Application	Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context.
2. SCOTUS Application	Apply Supreme Court decisions.
3. Data Analysis	Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics.
4. Source Analysis	Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources.
5. Argumentation	Develop an argument in essay format.

Exam Overview

The AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam assesses student understanding of the disciplinary practices and learning objectives outlined in the course framework.

The exam is 3 hours long and includes 55 multiple-choice questions and 4 free-response questions. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below:

I Multiple-choice questions--55 50% 80 minutes

II Free-response questions 4 100 minutes (recommended timing below)

Question 1: Concept Application (3 points) 12.5% 20 minutes

Question 2: Quantitative Analysis (4 points) 12.5% 20 minutes

Question 3: SCOTUS Comparison (4 points) 12.5% 20 minutes

Question 4: Argument Essay (6 points) 12.5% 40 minutes

The exam assesses content from the five big ideas for the course:

Big Idea 1: Constitutionalism

Big Idea 2: Liberty and Order

Big Idea 3: Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy

Big Idea 4: Competing Policy-Making Interests

Big Idea 5: Methods of Political Analysis

Instructional Resources:

Textbooks Pew Resources Annenberg Classroom National Constitution Center iPad apps SCOTUS studies Southern Poverty Center	AP Classroom AP Guidebooks Constitutional Readings District Curriculum Materials State Standards Websites Teaching Tolerance
---	--

Curriculum:
 Course: US Government

Know:

Understand:

Do:

Unit 1: Foundations of American Government		
<p>5.1.12.A. Analyze the sources, purposes, functions of law, and how the rule of law protects individual rights and promotes the common good.</p> <p>5.1.12.B. Employ historical examples and political philosophy to evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.</p> <p>5.1.12.C. Evaluate the application of the principles and ideals in contemporary civic life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>5.1.12.D. Evaluate state and federal powers based on significant documents and other critical sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p>	<p>Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution • Separation of powers • Checks and balances • Federalism • Theories of democratic government 	<p>5.1.12.A. Analyze the sources, purposes, functions of law, and how the rule of law protects individual rights and promotes the common good.</p> <p>5.1.12.B. Employ historical examples and political philosophy to evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.</p> <p>5.1.12.C. Evaluate the application of the principles and ideals in contemporary civic life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty / Freedom • Democracy • Justice • Equality <p>5.1.12.D. Evaluate state and federal powers based on significant documents and other critical sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Independence • United States Constitution • Bill of Rights • Pennsylvania Constitution <p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p>

Unit 2: Political Behavior

5.1.12.F. Evaluate the role of nationalism in uniting and dividing citizens.

5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.2.12.D. Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.

5.3.12.D. Evaluate the roles of political parties, interest groups, and mass media in politics and public policy.

5.3.12.E. Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the electoral college.

5.3.12.G. Evaluate the impact of interest groups in developing public policy.

5.3.12.H. Evaluate the role of mass media in setting the public agenda and influencing political life.

5.4.12.D. Evaluate the role of mass media in world politics.

Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media.

- Political parties and elections
- Functions & Organization
- Development
- Effects on the political process
- Electoral laws and systems
- Interest groups, including political action committees (PACs)
- Interests represented
- Effects of interest groups on political process
- Characteristics and roles of PACs in the political process
- Functions and structures of the news media
- Media impacts on politics

Political Beliefs and Behaviors.

- Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders
- Processes by which citizens learn about politics
- The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion
- The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life
- Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

5.1.12.F. Evaluate the role of nationalism in uniting and dividing citizens.

5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.2.12.D. Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.

5.3.12.D. Evaluate the roles of political parties, interest groups, and mass media in politics and public policy.

5.3.12.E. Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the electoral college.

5.3.12.G. Evaluate the impact of interest groups in developing public policy.

5.3.12.H. Evaluate the role of mass media in setting the public agenda and influencing political life.

5.4.12.D. Evaluate the role of mass media in world politics.

Unit 3: Legislative Branch

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.B. Compare and contrast policymaking in various contemporary world governments.

Congress

- Bicameral National Legislature
- The House of Representatives
- The Senate
- The Members of Congress

Powers of Congress

- Expressed power of money and commerce
- Other Expressed Powers
- Implied Powers
- Non-legislative Powers

Congress in Action

- Congressional Organization
- Committees
- How a bill becomes a law

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.B. Compare and contrast policymaking in various contemporary world governments.

Unit 4: Executive Branch

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.C. Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.

5.3.12.I. Evaluate tax policies of various states and countries.

5.3.12.J. Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments.

5.4.12.A. Examine foreign policy perspectives, including realism, idealism, and liberalism.

5.4.12.B. Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).

5.4.12.C. Evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

5.4.12.E. Compare and contrast the politics of various interest groups and evaluate their impact on foreign policy.

- The Presidency
- President' job description
 - Presidential Succession
 - Electing the President
- Presidential Power
- Growth
 - Executive Powers
 - Legislative Powers
 - Judicial Powers
 - Diplomatic Powers
 - Military Powers
- The Bureaucracy
- EOP
 - Cabinet
 - Independent Agencies
- Government Finance
- Taxes
 - Public Debt
 - Budget
 - Fiscal and Monetary Policy
- Foreign Policy
- Diplomacy
 - National Security
 - Foreign Aid and Alliances

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.C. Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.

5.3.12.I. Evaluate tax policies of various states and countries.

5.3.12.J. Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments.

5.4.12.A. Examine foreign policy perspectives, including realism, idealism, and liberalism.

5.4.12.B. Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).

5.4.12.C. Evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

5.4.12.E. Compare and contrast the politics of various interest groups and evaluate their impact on foreign policy.

Unit 5: Judicial Branch		
<p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.F. Analyze landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its Amendments.</p>	<p>Federal Court System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Judiciary ● Inferior Courts ● Supreme Courts ● Special Courts <p>Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation ● Knowledge of substantive rights and liberties ● The impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on the constitutional development of rights and liberties 	<p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.F. Analyze landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its Amendments.</p>
Unit 6: State and Local Government		
<p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p>	<p>State and Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governing the States ● State Institutions ● Constitutional Federalism in the States ● Local Government ● Structure and function ● Financing local government 	<p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p>

Pacing Guide

Course:

Course Unit	Length of Instruction
Unit 1: Foundation of American Government	15-20 classes
Unit 2: Political Behavior	15-20 classes
Unit 3: Legislative Branch	10-15 classes
Unit 4: Executive Branch	15-20 classes
Unit 5: Judicial Branch	15-20 classes
Unit 6: State and Local Government	<u>5-10 classes</u>
	90 classes