

Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics

Course Description

This is a college-level course. College-level attitudes, work habits and products are expected of all students. This class requires more reading than the typical high school honors class. Students who want to do well must complete all assignments on time. Learning is ultimately the responsibility of the student. In an advanced placement course, students are expected to be interested in their own learning and willing to devote the time necessary to explore the course content as fully as possible. A reading schedule is provided, so students can plan and prepare for the classes.

What is the payoff for all this extra effort? Students will be prepared to take the Advance Placement United States Government and Politics exam in May. A score of 3 or better is considered a passing score. Students who earn a score of 4 or 5 on the exams usually earn college credits, many colleges also grant credit for a score of 3.

Course Objectives – By the end of the course students will:

- Develop an understanding of United States Political system.
- Analyze and interpret a free response prompt about the United States Government and provide a well planned and coherent response.
- Analyze and interpret data relating to the United States Government
- Take the Advanced Placement exam.
- Use their knowledge of the United States Government, to achieve a score of 3 or better.

Major Units of Study

- I. Constitutional Underpinnings of US Government
- II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors
- III. Political parties, interest groups, and mass media
- IV. Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts
- V. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- VI. Public Policy

Structure of the AP United States Government and Politics Exam

- 60 Multiple questions (45 minutes)
- 4 Written Response (100 minutes)