

NAME: _____

PERIOD: _____

SYLLABUS - AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (2018-2019)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a college level, nonpartisan course and has been endorsed by the National Constitution Center as well as a range of conservative and liberal scholars for its political balance. The required readings are the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, Brutus No. 1, and Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." Additional readings will be assigned to supplement the course and maintain a political balance. In addition to readings, students will be required to evaluate fifteen required Supreme Court cases.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS Textbook

- *American Government: Roots and Reform*, 2011 edition (11th edition) ○
O'Connor, Karen; Sabato, Larry; Yanus, Alixandra ○

Articles from newspapers and online websites such as the Wall Street Journal, *The Economist*, 538, New York Times, politico.com and the Washington Post.

Course Content - AP U.S. Government and Politics

Unit 1 – Foundations of American Democracy

The US Constitution arose out of important historical and philosophical ideas and preferences regarding popular sovereignty and limited government. Compromises were made during the Constitutional Convention and ratification debates, and these compromises have frequently been the source of conflict in U.S. politics over the proper balance between individual freedom, social order and equality of opportunity.

Multiple actors and institutions interact to produce and implement possible policies.

Unit 2 – Interactions among Branches of Government

Because power is widely distributed and checks prevent one branch from usurping powers from the others, institutional actors are in the position where they must both compete and cooperate in order to govern.

Unit 3 – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Through the U.S. Constitution, but primarily through the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment, citizens and groups have attempted to restrict national and state governments from unduly infringing upon individual rights essential to ordered liberty and from denying equal protection under the law. Likewise, it has sometimes been argued that these legal protections have been used to block reforms and restrict freedoms of others in the name of social order.

Unit 4 – American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

American political beliefs are shaped by founding ideals, core values, linkage institutions (e.g. elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media in all its forms), and the changing demographics of citizens. These beliefs about government, politics, and the individual's role in the political system influence the creation of public policies.

Unit 5 – Political Participation

Governing is achieved directly through citizen participation and indirectly through institutions (e.g. political parties, interest groups and mass media) that inform, organize, and mobilize support to influence government and politics, resulting in many venues for citizen influence on policy making.

Students will be required to**I. Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context**

- a. Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors

II. Apply Supreme Court decisions

- a. Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and opinion(s) of required Supreme Court cases
- b. Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources
- c. Compare the reasoning, decisions, and opinion(s) of a required Supreme Court case to a non-required Supreme Court case

III. Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics

- a. Describe and explain patterns and trends in data
- b. Explain what the data imply or illustrate about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors

IV. Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources

- a. Describe the author's claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning
- b. Explain how the author's argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors
- c. Explain how the implications of the author's argument or perspective may affect political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors
- d. Explain how the visual elements of a cartoon, map, or infographic illustrate or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors

V. Develop an argument in essay format

- a. Articulate a defensible claim/thesis
- b. Support the argument using relevant evidence
- c. Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis
- d. Use refutation, concession, or rebuttal in responding to opposing or alternate perspectives

The Project Requirement

- a. The required project adds a civic component to the course, engaging students in exploring how they can affect, and are affected by, government and politics throughout their lives.
- b. The project will have students collect data on a teacher-approved political science topic, participate in a community service activity, or observe and report on the policymaking process of a governing body.
- c. Students should plan a presentation that relates their experiences or findings to what they are learning in the course.

Classroom examinations consist of quizzes, chapter assessments and unit tests. Assessments are based on vocabulary, classroom notes, readings and discussions. Cheating is not tolerated on any/all examinations. Students caught will receive a zero in Pinnacle and undergo appropriate disciplinary action.

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AP EXAM

Multiple Choice	55 questions	1 hour and 20 minutes
Free Response	4 questions (Concept Application, Quantitative Analysis, SCOTUS comparison and Argument Essay)	1 hour and 40 minutes
TOTAL		3 Hours

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE:

AP Government & Politics is a political science class which involves discussions, debates and collaborative work, therefore, it is imperative that students attend class every day so they do not fall behind. Pop quizzes are often administered based on in class readings and discussions. Students will be given the opportunity to make-up work as long as it does not exceed the allotted amount of time. Missed work due to absences and tardies will be made up according to the Broward County Code of Student Conduct.

CLASS/HOMEWORK:

Students are expected to complete every assignment in a timely and fair manner. All homework assignments must be handwritten (legibly). Homework assignments, readings, handouts and links can be found on Canvas under the course modules.

MAKE-UP WORK:

It is the student's responsibility to obtain any missed assignments, handouts, notes, and daily questions when absent. I will not seek you out and remind you that there are things you need to complete. If you are absent on a test day, you **MUST** make up your test on my scheduled make-up days – **Mondays and Thursdays** after school.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Students are expected to act in accordance with a collegiate atmosphere.

- Students will be prepared for class each day with the appropriate classroom materials and a positive attitude.
- Talking, sleeping, and/or working on material from other courses will not be tolerated
- Notes will be the original work of the student and NOT photocopies or emails from other students.
- Work must be handwritten UNLESS otherwise noted.
- Laptops, iPads, cell phones, or any other technology may NOT be used in the classroom unless it is for educational purposes and with teacher approval.
- Any misuse of Internet relationship will result in consequences outlined by the Broward County Code of Conduct.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- 3" - 3 Ring Binder
 - a. Your FIRST/LAST NAME must be neatly written on the side of the binder ☐
- Dividers (We WILL DISCUSS IN CLASS) Each tab must be neatly labeled
- Highlighter
- Black OR Blue Pens
- **PAPER!!!** – Notebook paper in class and computer paper for printing at h

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