

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT
MICHIGAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL**

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Course Information:

The Advanced Placement course is intended to parallel a freshman Government course in college. The College Board prepares the Advanced Placement Test. The semester grade for Michigan City High School is independent from the College Board exam. Each student will be required to earn nine week grades as well as take a final exam.

Reading:

All students are expected to prepare all required reading before the expected due dates. The text, along with supplemental pieces, will serve as the cornerstone for student success. In addition, students are encouraged to begin an organized effort to read and review multiple news media outlets (newspapers and magazines) to stay informed of current issues. Examples include the following:

Time

Newsweek

US News and World Report

Various newspapers (print or on-line) – Chicago Tribune, New York Times,
Washington Post, etc.

Research and Problem Solving:

At weekly intervals students will be given a research or a problem solving activity. The class will use the media center or class produced materials to complete the activities. The activities are intended to spark interest in the student's mind as well as introduce them to governmental operations and procedures. Information gained in this process is intended to further student awareness in the form of confidently participating in class discussions. We will also analyze and interpret various forms of data in our research and problem solving activities.

Grade Distribution:

Tests and Quizzes: 50%

Homework, cooperative learning projects, research papers, problem solving activities: 40%

Class Participation, Attendance, Effort: 10%

Course Units:

Part I: Foundations of Government (Chapters 1-6)

The first unit introduces the student to the foundation of the American System. Different forms of government are examined through the eyes of the Founding Fathers as they plan their break with Great Britain and create the new nation. Discussion will include compromise, representative democracy, federalism, state and local governments.

Major documents include the following:

The Declaration of Independence

The Articles of Confederation

The United States Constitution

The Federalist Papers

Major aspects of **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights** will also be discussed. The Bill of Rights and various amendments (specifically the 14th and 15th) in these areas will be discussed. Supreme Court cases will also be discussed. Examples include: Brown v. Board of Education, Plessy v. Ferguson, Roe v. Wade, and Miranda v. Arizona, etc.

- Vocab quiz after each chapter
- Unit 1 Exam
- Chapter Essays
- Project – 28th Amendment

Part II: Institutions of Government (Chapters 7-10)

Unit two presents the pillars of American government: Congress, The Presidency, The Bureaucracy, and the Judiciary. Students will need to become familiar with the workings of these areas in each of their independent responsibilities as well as their connected purpose. We will examine how different styles of management and personality have affected the decision making process through the years.

- Vocab quiz after each chapter
- Unit 2 Exam
- Chapter Essays
- Project – How a Bill becomes a law

Part III: Political Behavior (Chapters 11-16)

Unit three examines the voting behavior and habits of the voting age population of the United States and other countries. In addition students will learn about the rise and decline of political parties. Studies will begin at the grassroots of government and work through the state and federal arenas. Students will follow an assortment of campaigns that lead to the election and election process. The effects of the media and interest groups will also be discussed.

- Vocab quiz after each chapter
- Unit 3 Exam
- Project - Liberal/Conservative

Part IV: Public Policy (Chapters 17-19)

In this final unit the student will “put it all together”. We will discuss **social welfare policy, economic policy, domestic policy, and foreign and defense policy. Public policy deals with the interactions of interest groups, institutions and governmental processes to enact policy.** Students will examine the different roles that all stakeholders have in government. They will witness the role that federalism, political parties, elections, etc....have in the policy processes and policy making in the American government system.

- Vocab quiz after each chapter
- Unit 4 Exam
- Chapter Essays

Recommendations:

- Always read the textbook. This is your responsibility. Your overall success depends on this.
- Gain awareness of current events. Many of the Advanced Placement level questions use current situations to initiate test questions
- Organize your time, your habits, and materials. As you become more organized you will become more efficient.
- Learn your vocabulary. Most tests include 25% vocabulary based questions.
- Learn the basic structure of the Constitution and the Amendments.
- Ask questions if you do not understand something. Do not let an opportunity to learn pass you by.
- Always do your homework.
- Participate at a very high level.
- Suggested news media outlets: broadcast, (CNN, MSNBC, FOX, NBC, CBS, ABC, etc.), various newspapers, on-line media, etc.

Testing:

- Tests will be a mix of multiple choice and essay question, similar to the Advanced Placement exam.
- Students will be expected to answer analytical and interpretive free response questions on a frequent basis.
- Some of the essays will be timed to prepare you for the test.
- You will need a #2 pencil for the exams
- Bring all your own materials.
- Never Cheat! We follow the school policy. Cheating equals a zero on that assignment.
- The classroom remains silent during the testing procedure.
- There will be no retesting.
- The College Board has mandated that there will be no electronic devices in the testing center for the Advanced Placement exam. So, in an attempt to duplicate the testing atmosphere, there will be no electronic devices in the room for any of our tests as well.

Participation:

Students are expected to be well prepared when they come to class. If you complete all of the assignments each student should participate daily in class discussions. Attendance is part of your participation grade. Participation is mandatory.

Extra Credit:

There is a possibility for extra credit if the opportunity presents itself. Extra credit, if offered, would be an out of school experience for the students to participate in. Equal to all class assignments any extra credit assignment will be due on its assigned date.

Text: primary

American Government: Roots and Reform, Karen O'Connor, Larry J. Sabato, Copyright 2009.

Supplemental Readings:

The Politics of American Government, Herbert M. Levine, Copyright 1997.

Advance Placement United States Government and Politics, James A. Benedict, Daniel S. Ludlum, Copyright 2003.