



South Williamsport Area School District
Course Plan Template

Teacher: <i>Ryan Carper</i>	School Year: <i>2015-16</i>
Course: <i>American Politics & Economics</i>	Intended Grade Level: <i>12th</i>
Course Summary: <i>American Politics & Economics is designed for senior high Social Science students. Students will investigate the American government and its political process for one semester and principles of economics for a second semester. This year long course will emphasize the various contributions in the policymaking process as well as the functions and purpose of the government of the United States. Additionally, the course will examine key concepts in micro and macroeconomics. Focus of study will include bureaucracy, the legislative process, checks & balances, federalism, civil rights & liberties, constitutionality, political institutions, linkage institutions, public behavior, supply & demand, elasticity, economic determinants, GDP, GNP, productivity, and future possibilities.</i>	
Course Outcomes: By the end of the course, students will know: <i>the various contributing aspects that influence public policy evaluating the greatest influence on the political process and synthesizing how to bring about political change</i> By the end of the course, students will be able to: <i>not only recognize, but actively seek out methods of bringing about political change at the different levels of social and governmental structure.</i>	
Standards Targeted¹ Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System for Civics & Government: 5.1-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Principle and Documents of Government</i>➤ <i>Rights & Responsibilities of Citizenship</i>➤ <i>How Government Works</i>➤ <i>How International Relationships Function</i> Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System for Economics : 6.1-3 & 6.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Scarcity & Choice</i>➤ <i>Markets & Economic Systems</i>➤ <i>Economic Functions of Government</i>➤ <i>Income, Profit & Wealth</i>	

¹ Indicate primary Standards emphasis:

- PA Core - Math / ELA / Science & Technology / History & Social Studies
- National Content Standards (Name and Type)
- Industry Recognized Standards (Name and Type)



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Units of Study	
Units Topic	Primary Learning Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Principles of American Government & Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cause & Effect of the Revolutionary Era ○ Origins of Political Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Declaration ~ Articles of Confederation ~ The US Constitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to recognize the cause and effect relationship of the various events leading up to, through and after the American Revolution.</i> • <i>For students to grasp the method of thinking in terms of chronology and domino effects</i> • <i>For students to evaluate the trial & errors of our founding fathers in establishing our rare Federalist Liberal Democratic Republic.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demography & the Census ○ Public Opinion & Polling ○ Constituent & Voter Behavior Including Elections & Political Participation Trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to assess the diverse demographics of the American population and how these variables impact political behavior & policy change</i> • <i>For students to evaluate the motivating factors for political activity among the people and how they themselves can enact change</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Linkage Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interest Groups & Lobbyists ○ Media ○ Campaigns & Elections ○ Political Parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to recognize the various avenues for political communication between the people & government.</i> • <i>For students to gauge the greatest sources of political medium for effective communication in regard to each demographical group of the public & the portion of government for whom they will engage with.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Political Institutions & Their Checks & Balances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Federal Legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitutional Guidelines etc ▪ Structure, Power, Influence ○ The Federal Executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership & Bureaucracy ▪ Powers & limitations ○ The Federal Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structure ▪ Jurisdiction ▪ Influence on Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to reinforce and expand upon their understanding of the relationship among the branches in regard to separation of powers and checks & balances.</i> • <i>For students to evaluate the degree of each branch's democratic nature and to further evaluate the measures most successful for influencing political change within each branch.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policymaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Domestic vs. Foreign Policy ○ The Federal Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intro. Into economic systems and concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to reevaluate from earlier in the year, the various factors contributing to the policymaking system.</i> • <i>For students to assess domestic & foreign policy in US history to further create an argument for the balance of emphasis each has on the American policy agenda.</i> • <i>For students to evaluate the intertwined relationship between governments & economic systems and how the budget epitomizes the policy process in general.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Micro vs. Macro Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laws of Supply & Demand, Curves, Shifting, & Elasticity ○ Economic Systems/Models ○ Productivity, Efficiency & Future Possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>For students to evaluate the role factors of production have on any economic system as well as economizing problems and how to minimize such problems.</i> • <i>For students to analyze the principle laws of supply and demand as well as how situations naturally and artificially occurring impact both supply and demand.</i> • <i>For students to assess and synthesize methods of</i>



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	<i>improving productivity, efficiency, and possibilities.</i>
Advanced Learner Recommendations	
<i>Advanced/gifted learners are in the advanced government & politics course for which the course content, pace and rigor is in direct correlation to the students' advanced learning abilities/needs.</i>	
Struggling Learner Recommendations	
<i>Application of accommodations in accordance with each student's individualized education plan.</i>	