

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SYLLABUS 2022-2023

Mr. Felumlee Room 212

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Class Resources:

Textbook: Wilson, James Q. AP Edition American Government Institutions and Policies 16th Edition.

MyAPclassroom.collegeboard.org, You Tube Study Videos

Politico.com, USelectionatlas.org, Kahn Academy, TheHill.com, and Upfront.

Course Overview and Objectives:

This is a rigorous, fast-paced, college-level class. The two main objectives are to learn U.S. government and politics, and pass the AP Exam. The fundamental operation of class will be geared toward passing the exam. There is no state and local government on the AP Exam. The breakdown of class time and content studied will be in direct relationship with the AP Exam.

The content areas of the AP Exam and this class are as follows:

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy 15-22%

Unit 2: Interaction Among Branches of Government 25-36%

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights 13-18%

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs 10-15%

Unit 5: Political Participation 20-27%

**** We will not do these units in this order.**

AP Test Format and Scoring:

50%- 55 multiple choice questions (80 minutes) 10 minute break

50%- 4 FRQ's (free response questions) 12.5% each. (100 minutes)

- 1. Concept application 2. Quantitative analysis 3. SCOTUS Case Comparison**
- 4. Argumentative essay**

AP Test Scale is from 1-5, with a 3 and above passing and earning college credit.

Grading and Course Assignments:

Vocabulary and writing skills are essential parts of this course. Students will be given a vocabulary review for each content area. These terms should be defined in sentences and always have examples to show understanding of the term.

Vocabulary and reading quizzes will be given (your lowest quiz will be dropped).

All test questions will be of the same format as the AP Exam (Multiple Choice, Free Response). Students must keep up on weekly reading and *will be required to write Cornell Notes on key concepts and terms*. Most tests will be textbook generated. Class discussions, activities, and current events are intended to enhance understanding from assigned readings.

All quizzes, tests, homework, and projects will have a point value including a comprehensive notebook grade at the end of each grading period. Students will also have some group assignments and review practice test grades as well. By school rule we have two semester exams. These exams will cover content from tests and quizzes given during the semester. Each exam is 10% of your final grade.

Class Rules and Procedures: (50 point Behavior-Participation grade)

1. You lose 5 pts. per assignment if written in red or has no name.
2. Assignments can be turned in one day late with 20% penalty.
3. Be on time with all appropriate class materials (text, notebook, I pad, and pen/pencil), five points per violation.
4. No phones, smart watches, or ear buds once the bell rings (5 pts)
5. Bonus coupons and extra credit can be earned. No re-takes.
6. Notebooks will be collected and graded each nine weeks (65 pts)
7. When absent always find out what work you need (email me). If you know you will be absent, get assignments in advance. Not present in class is NEVER an excuse in AP Government!
8. You will have an assignment calendar to fill out each week for your notebook (Ten points of your final notebook grade).

UNIT ONE: Chapters 1-3

Week One-Two: August 17-26: (Chapter One Study of American Government)

Readings: Wilson 3-20, Videos on Cornell Notes and FRQ test writing skills.

Concepts:

What is government? Where do governments get their power to govern? What are the four types of politics? What are the five sources of political power?

What is a Republic? Understand the different types of democracy and the three Models (participatory, pluralist, elite). Analyze other forms of government and the positives and negatives of each government. Chapter One Quiz

Week Three-Four: August 29-September 9: (Chapter 2 Constitution)

Readings: Wilson 22-47, *Federalist 10, 51, 70, & 78, Brutus 1,*

Constitutionfacts.com, www.constitutioncenter.org, annenbergclassroom.org

Concepts:

Know the principles of government in the Declaration of Independence.

Understand the political mindset behind the Articles of Confederation. Why was there a need for a stronger government? Analyze the issues and compromises at the Constitutional Convention. Breakdown the Federalist /Anti-Federalist debate over ratification. What are the goals and principles the Constitution is based on? Why was there a need for the Bill of Rights? Review key Federalist Papers. Know the structure of the Constitution.

Chapter 2 Test

Week Five: September 12-16 (Chapter 5 Civil Liberties) Bill of Rights

Readings: Wilson 96-112

Concepts: Know your civil liberties and understand the limits to freedoms.

Review SCOTUS cases related to the Bill of Rights. Relate the significance to the 14th amendment and the Selective Incorporation Doctrine. Chapter 5 Quiz

Week Six: September 19-23 (Chapter 3 Federalism)

Readings: Wilson 50-73, U.S. Constitution

Concepts:

What is the importance of the 10th amendment? Analyze relations between states and the federal government. How does the federal system work? How do state laws and federal laws work together? What are mandates and grant-in-aid programs? Review the cases *McCulloch v. Maryland* & *U.S. v. Lopez*

Chapter 3 Test

UNIT FOUR- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Week Seven: September 26-30 (Chapter 4 Political Culture & 7 Public Opinion)

Isidewith.com

Readings: Wilson 76-93 & 153-169, pollingreport.com, opiniontoday.com

Concepts:

What is American political culture? Is there trust in government? How does our democracy compare to others? What are the sources of political culture?

Define ideology. What is the difference between a political rally, protest, and march? How do we measure public opinion? What shapes and divides public opinion? How does the power of public opinion influence public policy?

Chapter 4 & 7 Quiz

Week Eight: October 3-7 (Chapter 8 Political Participation)

Readings: Wilson 171-187, Ohio Voter Guide

Concepts:

How has the electorate expanded during our history? Discuss the political and social battles to expand voting rights. Analyze voter participation and registration issues. What are reasons to be disenfranchised? Understand Ohio voting laws, and discuss why some states have been accused of suppressing voting rights. Know different ways to be politically active.

Write a "Letter to the Editor"

Week Nine-Ten: October 10-19 (Chapter 9 Political Parties)

Readings: Wilson 189-210

Concepts:

How did political parties originate? What functions do parties perform? How has our system evolved into a two-party system? Know the delegate system in each party. What role do Third Parties play in our political process? Why are fewer people political party members? What is a re-aligning election?

Chapter 8-9 Test, Analyze the Party Platform of the Republicans and Democrats.

***Notebooks and bonus coupons are due, end of the grading period.**

2ND NINE WEEKS

Week One-Two: October 24-November 4 (Chapter 10 Elections and Campaigns)

Readings: Read about election issues and candidates (Make a Campaign Poster)

Readings: Wilson 212-238. Ballotpedia.org, USelectionatlas.org

Concepts:

Understand the different types of elections. Review and explain the significance of campaign financing and the influence of PAC's. Review campaign finance laws and court rulings. Analyze the many factors that determine a successful campaign in the primaries and general election. How do election results effect government policy? Why do incumbents have an advantage?

Chapter 10 Test

Week Three-Four: Nov. 7-17 Chapters 11-12 Interest Groups & Media

Readings: Wilson 241-288. I Pad research of interest groups.

Concepts:

Review what a linkage institution is. What are the positive and negative roles of interest groups? Understand lobbying and the influence of lobbyist. How do interest groups reflect American individualism? What influence does the media have on politics? What is censorship and freedom of the press? How do politicians use social media and the internet today? Compare different news sources and their credibility and impartiality. (You Tube AP review Government in Action Ch. 7)

Chapter 11-12 Test, Interest Group Project

UNIT 2 Chapter 13

Week Five-Seven: November 21- December 9 (Chapter 13 Congress)

Readings: Wilson 292-323, Politico.com, thehill.com, rollcall.com

Concepts:

What are the enumerated, delegated, and implied powers of Congress? How are constituents represented? How does the Committee System work?

Understand the importance of political parties in Congress? Analyze the competition for power between the Congress and the president. Why is Congress so unpopular with the public? How do bills become laws? Understand

the differences between the two Houses. How does Congress check the power of the executive and judicial branches? How is leadership determined?

Chapter 13 Test

End of the Nine Weeks, turn in notebook at the exam.

Week Eight: Review and Exams December 12-15

Christmas Break December 16-January 2

THIRD NINE WEEKS

Week One-Three January 3-20 (Chapter 14 The Presidency)

Readings: Wilson 325-362. Web page www.270towin.com

Concepts:

What are the powers of the president and how are powers limited? Understand the relationship between the president and the Congress/Judiciary. What are the many roles of the president and how has the office evolved over history? What makes a great president? Understand the make-up of the White House Office. Understand the process of the Electoral College. Debate the positive and negatives of the Electoral College. Explain the impeachment process and know the procedures for presidential succession. Discuss Nixon and the Watergate Scandal. Analyze amendments 12, 20, 22, 23, and 25. Review the controversies of the JFK assassination.

Chapter 14 Test

Week Four-Five: January 23-February 3 (Chapter 15 The Bureaucracy)

Readings: Wilson 365-390

Concepts: "The Fourth Branch"

Understand the bureaucracy and what functions it performs. Explain why bureaucracy costs have grown. What is proxy government? Why is there criticism of the bureaucracy? How are Cabinet leaders chosen? What are Iron Triangles and Issue Networks? How are the people served by the bureaucracy?

Chapter 15 Test

Week Six-Seven February 6-15 (Chapter 17-18 Domestic/Economic Policy)

Readings: Wilson Chapter 17 423-451

Concepts:

What is social welfare? Identify and understand entitlement programs. What are the issues related to Obamacare, Medicaid, and Medicare? How are social insurances and public assistance programs funded? What role should government have in social, medical, and environmental issues?

Readings: Wilson Chapter 18 454-472

Concepts:

Who creates the federal budget? What is fiscal and monetary policy? What are the functions of the Federal Reserve? Understand why government taxes. Review why some programs are mandatory and some are discretionary in the budget. Why is passing a federal budget so difficult? Identify some of the theories of monetary policy.

Chapter 17-18 Test

Week Eight-Nine: February 22-March 3 (Chapter 19 Foreign Policy and Globalism)

Readings: Wilson 474-501, usforeignpolicyabout.com

Concepts:

Analyze past and present challenges to foreign policy. Who is responsible for creating and implementing foreign policy? What role should the U.S. play in international treaties, alliances, and organizations? Understand the struggle between the Congress and the president about the use of military force and implementing foreign policy. Why is foreign policy so important to the U.S.?

Chapter 19 Test.

Week Ten- March 6-8 Analyze the 15 Landmark SCOTUS Cases. Quiz.

Turn in notebook, end of the 3rd nine weeks.

FOURTH NINE WEEKS

Week One-Two: March 13-24 (Chapter 16 The Judiciary)

Readings: Wilson 392-419, 123-148, SCOTUSblog.com, oyez.org, streetlaw.org

Homework- present a landmark Supreme Court case in class.

Concepts:

Understand the structure of the federal court system. How does the Supreme Court operate? How does a case reach SCOTUS? How does the judiciary function with the other branches of government? Know the five origins of American law. Understand how federal judges and justices are nominated &

confirmed. Debate the merits of judicial activism and restraint. Link constitutional principles to the 15 Landmark Cases.

Week Three-Four: March 27-April 14 Chapter 6 Civil Rights

What are civil rights? Review the history of Jim Crow Laws. Know important legislation related to the civil rights movement. What were important civil rights rulings by the federal courts? Understand the movement for “equal rights” by other groups of people. What is affirmative action and what have been the challenges to the laws? Analyze other demands for civil rights including “Black Lives Matter”, LGBT’s, immigrants, and Muslims. Review the discrimination protections in the 14th amendment and legislation by Congress. Chapter 6/16 Test.

TIME TO GET READY FOR THE AP EXAM!

Week Five-Six: April 17-28

Review for the AP Test

Homework will be review and practice AP questions. Practice packets will be given each day. Practice FRQ questions on AP classroom and Kahn Academy. We will watch numerous You Tube review videos and take several practice tests in class. Study Foundational Documents and SCOTUS Cases!

THE AP TEST IS MAY 1st 8 AM

(Everybody gets a three or higher!)

Week Seven: May 2-5 State and Local Government

Concepts: Learn Ohio citizenship. Review the three branches of Ohio state government. Analyze state government, budgeting, and services. Review county, township, and municipal governments. Understand the relationship between taxes and services provided by local government. Know the local courts and what cases they handle.

State/Local government Test

Week Eight-Nine May 8-19 Financial Literacy Basics

Financial Literacy Test

Week Ten: Semester Exams May 22-24 (Turn in Notebook at the Exam)

