



AP US Government and Politics

Syllabus

Boca Ciega High School
Dr. Isaac

Rm: 01-064
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Course Description

This AP course is a thorough study of the United States government. This course will focus on the Constitution, political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; Congress, the Presidency, bureaucracy, federal courts; and civil rights. Course material will be taught through a variety of means including: lecture and note taking, class discussion, intensive reading, group and individual projects, and current events. Students successfully mastering the course material may earn college credit by making a qualifying score on the AP exam in May.

This college-level content course is designed to promote higher-level thinking skills, therefore, students can expect to analyze, evaluate, and write about essential concepts pertinent to U.S. Government and Politics. The subject matter that will be covered in this course will help prepare students for the AP Exam. This course closely follows the College Board AP Government and Politics Curriculum located in the CED (Course Exam Description).

The curriculum is divided into the following units:

- ★ Unit One: Foundations of American Democracy
- ★ Unit Two: Interactions Among Branches of Government
- ★ Unit Three: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- ★ Unit Four: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
- ★ Unit Five: Political Participation

Course Text

George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenburg, and Robert L. Lineberry. *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy*, 14th Ed. ****THIS WILL BE PROVIDED Online or IN PDF****

Additional Course Reading Materials

- Edwards, Wattenburg, Howell; *Government in America, People, Politics, and Policy*. 17th edition. New York: Pearson, 2018.
- *United States Government and Politics*, Wolford, David. Des Moines, Iowa: AMSCO Publications, 2019
- *Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*, 6th ed., Lanahan Publishers, Baltimore, MD., 2016
- Other readings and course materials will be distributed as needed throughout the school year.
- 5 Steps to a 5 or other study guides will also be useful for review

Please consider downloading these or other political apps-

1. Interactive Constitution
2. SCOTUSblog
3. Congress (Android)
4. Congress Reveal (iOS)
5. News app of your choice
6. Countable
7. OYEZ (iOS / Online)
8. FiveThirtyEight.com

Scholar Expectations:

- We commit to creating a functional group dynamic. In making this commitment, we understand that our regular presence is crucial to this dynamic, and that our unexplained absences may impair it.
- We value each member's experiences and the presence of multiple viewpoints in pursuit of productivity, personal goals, dignity and self-respect.
- We respect people's ideas and positions even when we disagree with them.
- We will critique ideas, but not the person who expresses them.
- We hold space in our conversations for times of privacy and stillness.
- We commit to asking questions about and working through a group process that may, at times, seem difficult to us. We commit to remaining active in the group through difficult moments and consulting the instructor when we can't work through something by ourselves or in the class.
- We have compassion for each and meet each other as best we can. This means, we respect each other's opinions and agree to disagree respectfully.
- We consider some of our conversations as confidential. **Our classroom is safe space and names/information from the discussion should not be used elsewhere.**
- We add to the discussion and not just repeat what has already been said. We refer to concrete examples from readings, experiences, and media.
- We are aware when we are taking too much or too little space in the conversation and adjust accordingly.
- We explore new ideas, take risks, are constructive, flexible, and open to new learning.

Grades and Policies

- Grades:
 - Tests and Quizzes (announced and unannounced) 25%
 - Classwork and Participation: 25%
 - Homework and Binder Organization: 25%
 - Major Assignments (Reflection Papers, Current Events, Debates, Projects, and Political Participation): 25%
- Test Corrections: Students in AP Government are strongly encouraged to do test corrections on the multiple-choice portion of their tests in accordance with the parameters and procedures listed below:
 - Information:
 - All students may complete test corrections, if desired, on the multiple-choice section.
 - Corrections will be completed, on the student's time.
 - Students may earn back up to 1/3 credit for multiple choice questions missed.
 - Students will have one week from the time that tests are returned to complete corrections.
 - Students must complete the required post-test activity for each unit to maintain this privilege.
 - Procedures
 - Students will write a short explanation of why the answer is the correct answer and document where the correct answer was found.

- Students may use their book and/or notes to answer the questions.
- Granting of credit is completely at the teacher's discretion.
- Assignments: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the date assigned. **If accepted (at teacher's discretion)**, late assignments will be penalized.

Materials- A school *binder or separate binder* (at least two inches thick, separate from other subjects), pens, and a highlighter

- There will be large numbers of handouts and other documents. All handouts and notes should be kept in a binder and must be present every day. .

Attendance: You are expected to be in class because your attendance impacts learning for all.

Absences: It is YOUR responsibility to make up missed assignments when you are absent. Any assignment that was previously announced will still be expected on the due date. Being absent does not mean you will get an extension. If an absence is scheduled (trips, sports, etc.) please get assignments from in advance.

- Make-up a test/quiz: THE WEEK YOU RETURN to school- NO EXCUSES
 - Absent the day before a test: **you will be expected to take the exam on the regular test day.**
 - You are responsible for scheduling a make-up examination. If you fail to do this, the grade will be recorded as a ZERO.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, copying, cheating, etc. **CITE YOUR SOURCES!!!** Any type of academic dishonesty will result in the loss of credit for that assignment and contacting your family.

AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam:

- It is the policy of Boca Ciega High School that all students enrolled in the course (AP US Government and Politics) will sit for the Advanced Placement Exam on **Monday, May 3, 2021** which will give you college credit for the course should you earn a qualifying score of "3" or better.
- The exam consists of two sections: 80-minute multiple-choice section (55 questions) and a 100-minute free-response section with an argumentative essay (3 FRQ questions- 20 minutes each and 1 Argument Essay 40 minutes suggested).

****AP EXAM for Government & Politics: Monday, May 03, 2021 (8:00 AM) ****

****Please Sign and return to Dr. Isaac by Friday, August 28, 2020****

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

STUDENT—PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT FORM

I have read the above expectations for the AP Government and Politics Course and understand the time, commitment, and dedication necessary to thrive in this course. We have discussed the course outline and expectations and are willing to work together with Dr. Isaac for success. We will not hesitate to bring questions or concerns to Dr. Isaac throughout the year.

Parent/Guardian Contact:

- Name: _____
- Email: _____
- Phone number: _____ Best time to call: _____

Video Permission Slip: Over the course of the year, students will be learning about several key events in government through video clips, films, or movies. With your permission, your student will be learning from movies of both educational and cultural/political value. Some of these films will be historical in nature; and some will have mature ratings (PG-13, R). Many of the films that have mature ratings may contain some adult language and may discuss events that have occurred in history such as wars, hurricanes, political contests, etc. I will monitor the films and show only appropriate clips as necessary. Please review the following statements and **check** whichever applies to you and your student.

- _____ I give permission for my student to view movies/ documentaries (rated PG-13, R) that connect appropriately to the class and promote understanding of the topic/content.
- _____ I DO NOT wish for my student to view movies/ documentaries that are rated PG-13, R and my son or daughter will complete an alternative assignment.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date