



**Course Name: AP Government and Politics: United States**  
**School Year: 2021-2022**

### **Course Purpose and Relevance:**

This college-level course covers the constitutional underpinnings of the United States government system, civil liberties and civil rights, political culture and socialization, citizen participation and influence, plus political institutions and policy making. The course includes interpreting classic and contemporary political writings, evaluating the impact of the media on voter perceptions, campaign strategies, electoral outcomes and policy agenda development, and applying pertinent Supreme Court rulings to enduring social and political issues in the United States. An emphasis will be placed upon examination of scholarly text, critical thinking, independent study, and research.

For further details, view the [AP United States Government Course Page](#)

### **Overview of Student Outcomes:**

For complete list of topics covered in the course, view the [College Board Course Description PDF](#)

### **How to Assist Your Learner at Home:**

Help students manage time in order to allow for independent reading and study

Review vocabulary included in the course essential knowledge and exam practice tips available at AP Students [AP United States Government Course Page](#)

### **Link to Course TEKS on State website:**

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113d.pdf>

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html>

AP College Board Standards [AP United States Government and Politics](#)

# 2021-2022 Year At A Glance

<b>Department</b>	Social Studies	<b>PEIMS Code</b>		<b>Credit</b>	State
<b>Course Title</b>	AP Government	<b>Course Length</b>		1 Semester	
<b>Prerequisites</b>	U.S. History	<b>Grade Level(s)</b>		11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	

1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> **Nine Weeks**

2<sup>nd</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> **Nine Weeks**

**August/January**

**September/February**

**October/March**

**November/April**

**December/May**

Students are to be provided with an opportunity to engage in a political science research or applied civics project tied to the AP U.S. Government and Politics course framework that culminates in a presentation of findings. The project can involve student participation in nonpartisan service-learning opportunities, government-based internship programs, or a choice from a teacher-approved list of research project ideas.

*Refer to the AP Course Description for specific objectives to be addressed within each unit*

**Foundations of American Democracy (3 weeks) (15 – 22% of exam)**

- Ideals of Democracy
- Types of Democracy
- Govt Power & Indiv Rights
- Challenges of Articles of Confederation
- Ratification
- Principles of Amer Gov
- Federalism

**Documents**

Declaration of Independence  
 Articles of Confederation  
 U.S. Constitution  
 Bill of Rights & 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments  
 Federalist No. 10 and Brutus No.1  
 Federalist No. 51  
*McCulloch V Maryland (1819)*  
*United States v. Lopez (1995)*

**American Political Ideologies and Beliefs (2 weeks) (10 – 15% of exam)**

- American Attitudes About Government
- Political Socialization
- Changes in Ideology
- Measuring Public Opinion
- Ideologies of Political Parties
- Ideology and Policy Making

**Interactions among the Branches (5 weeks) (25 – 36% of exam)**

- Congressional Bodies
- Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress
- Congressional Behavior
- Roles and Powers of the President
- Presidential Power: Checks and Expansion
- Presidential Communication
- Judicial Branch
- Court in Action
- Checks on the Judicial Branch
- Bureaucracy
- Policy and the Branches of Gov

**Documents**

*Baker v Carr (1961)*  
*Shaw v Reno (1993)*  
 Federalists No. 70  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment  
 Article III of the Constitution  
 Federalist No. 78  
*Marbury v Madison (1803)*

**Political Participation (4 weeks) (20 – 27% of exam)**

- Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior
- Voter Turnout
- Political Parties
- How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
- Third-Party Politics
- Interest Groups
- Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes
- Electing a President
- Congressional Elections
- Modern Campaigns
- Campaign Finance
- The Media

**Documents**

1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> Amendments  
*Citizenship United v Federal Election Commission (2010)*

<p><b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (3 weeks)</b> <b>(13 – 18% of exam)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill of Rights</li> <li>• First Amendment</li> <li>• Second Amendment</li> <li>• Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety</li> <li>• Selective Incorporation</li> <li>• Due Process</li> <li>• Social Movements and Equal Protection</li> <li>• Balancing Minority and Majority Rights</li> <li>• Affirmative Action</li> </ul>	<p><b>Documents</b></p> <p>U.S. Constitution  Bill of Rights (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments)  <i>Schenck v United States (1919)</i>  “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”  <i>Brown v Board of Education (1954)</i>  <i>Engel v Vitale (1962)</i>  <i>Gideon v Wainwright (1963)</i>  <i>Tinker v Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)</i>  <i>New York Times Co. v United States (1971)</i>  <i>Wisconsin v Yoder (1972)</i>  <i>Roe v Wade (1973)</i> [See Note in Course Framework, include majority and dissenting opinions]  <i>McDonald v Chicago (2010)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Spring Semester – AP Exam Review/Prep</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Semester Final Exam Review</u></b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Aug. 10: District Content PL</li> <li>✓ Aug. 26 Women’s Independence Day</li> <li>✓ Sept. 6: Labor Day Holiday</li> <li>✓ Sept. 11: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniv of 9/11/01 First Responders Day</li> <li>✓ Sept. 13-17: Celebrate Freedom Week</li> <li>✓ Sept. 17: Constitution Day</li> <li>✓ Sept. 24 American Indian Heritage Day</li> <li>✓ Oct. 8: 1<sup>st</sup> NW ends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Nov 3: Father of Texas Day</li> <li>✓ Nov.22-28: Thanksgiving Break</li> <li>✓ Dec. 17: 2<sup>nd</sup> NW ends</li> <li>✓ Dec. 20-Jan 2: Winter Break</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Jan. 6 : Sam Rayburn Day</li> <li>✓ Jan. 24-28: Holocaust Remembrance Week</li> <li>✓ Feb 2: Texas Military Heroes Day</li> <li>✓ Feb. 19: Tx Anniv Remembrance Day (STAR)</li> <li>✓ Feb 21: District Content PL</li> <li>✓ March: Texas History Month</li> <li>✓ March 11; 3<sup>rd</sup> NW ends</li> <li>✓ March 14-18: Spring Break</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ April 15: Good Friday</li> <li>✓ May 2: AP USGov Exam</li> <li>✓ May 26: 4<sup>th</sup> NW ends</li> </ul>