

Course/Grade Level: AP U.S. Government and Politics

Days	Unit	Standard(s)/Outcome(s)	Essential/Guiding Questions
8-12	Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● .LOR-1.A Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution ● LOR-1.B Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S. ● CON-1.A Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents. ● CON-1.B Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states. ● CON-1.C Explain the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system. ● PMI-1.A Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why are there debates about the balance of power between the federal and state governments? ● Is the Bill of Rights necessary? Why or why not? ● How does the Constitution affect you and the choices you make?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PMI-1.B Explain the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system. ● CON-2.A Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments. ● CON-2.B Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time. ● CON-2.C Explain how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making. 	
<p>15-20</p>	<p>Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CON-3.A Describe the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress. ● CON-3.B Explain how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy-making process. ● CON-3.C Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government. ● CON-4.A Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Which branch of government is the most powerful? Why? ● Are there really checks and balances when one political party controls all three branches of government? Why or why not? ● In what ways has the evolution of government powers affected Americans and their daily lives?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CON-4.B Explain how the president’s agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress. ● CON-4.C Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers. ● CON-4.D Explain how communication technology has changed the president’s relationship with the national constituency and the other branches. ● CON-5.A Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments. ● CON-5.B Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power ● CON-5.B Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power. ● CON-5.B Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court’s power. ● CON-5.C Explain how other branches in the government can 	
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<p>10-15</p>	<p>Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LOR-2.A Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual liberties and rights. ● LOR-2.B Describe the rights protected in the Bill of Rights. ● LOR-2.C Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In what ways does the Constitution attempt to limit abuse of government powers? ● How can individuals and groups help protect civil liberties and civil rights? ● Why have Supreme Court decisions about civil liberties and civil rights changed over time?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● commitment to individual liberty. ● LOR-2.C Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty ● LOR-2.C Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty. ● LOR-2.C Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court’s interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty. ● LOR-2.D Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety ● LOR-3.A Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation. ● LOR-3.B Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights. ● LOR-3.B Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights. ● PRD-1.A Explain how constitutional provisions have 	
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		<p>supported and motivated social movements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PMI-3.A Explain how the government has responded to social movements. ● CON-6.A Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights. ● CON-6.A Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights. 	
<p>10-15</p>	<p>Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MPA-1.A Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government. ● MPA-1.B Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization. ● MPA-1.B Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization. ● MPA-1.B Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization. ● MPA-2.A Describe the elements of a scientific poll. ● MPA-2.B Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data. ● PMI-4.A Explain how ideologies of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do our core beliefs about the role of government affect our behavior? ● How does our view of what freedom is shape our opinions? ● Why are some opinion polls better than others? ● How can policy-makers use information from political science to make decisions?

		<p>the two major parties shape policy debates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PMI-4.B Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time. ● PMI-4.C Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace. ● PMI-4.D Explain how political ideologies vary on the government’s role in regulating the marketplace. ● PMI-4.E Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of the government in addressing social issues. ● PMI-4.F Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues. 	
<p>8-12</p>	<p>Unit 5: Political Participation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MPA-3.A Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation. ● MPA-3.B Describe different models of voting behavior. ● MPA-3.C Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections. ● PMI-5.A Describe linkage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why do some people choose to participate in government while others do not? ● How does your social network affect your political beliefs? ● Why might you join a political party? Why might you choose not to? ● How does who you are

		<p>institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● PMI-5.B Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.● PMI-5.C Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.● PMI-5.D Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success.● PMI-5.E Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest-group influence on elections and policy making.● PMI-5.F Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.● PMI-5.G Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.● PRD-2.A Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election.● PRD-2.B Explain how the Electoral College facilitates and/or impedes democracy.● PRD-2.C Explain how the different processes work in	<p>affect whether you participate or not?</p>
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		<p>U.S. congressional elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PRD-2.D Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process. ● PRD-2.E Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process. ● PRD-3.A Explain the media’s role as a linkage institution. ● PRD-3.B Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior. 	
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* [College Board AP U.S. Government & Politics Course and Exam Description \(Fall 2020\)](#)