

To: All current 11th grade students interested in taking AP U.S. Government and Politics

If you are interested in taking AP U.S. Government and Politics next year, please continue reading for the answers to some FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) concerning the course.

1. **What is AP U.S. Government and Politics?** AP U.S. Government and Politics is an advanced course where students can earn college credit by passing the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May. The course is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course in U.S. government.
2. **Why is this course beneficial?** This course is endorsed by the National Constitution Center as a model of political and ideological balance. It will not only help students understand the U.S. Constitution and the political system but will also help them become informed citizens who are willing to preserve, protect, and defend the rights and liberties at the core of our nation's charter.
3. **Will I earn an extra GPA bump on my transcript?** Yes, if the student earns a grade of "C" or higher.
4. **What is the amount and level of reading expected in this course?** In order to prepare for the exam and earn college credit, students should be able to read a college-level textbook. The pace of this course is roughly one chapter/concept each week. In addition to the textbook, students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals such as charts, graphs, maps and political cartoons.
5. **What is the course content?** This course provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions policies, interactions, roles and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. The course content is organized into commonly taught units. The units have been arranged in a logical sequence frequently found in many college courses and textbooks.
 - Unit 1: Foundation of American Democracy
 - Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government
 - Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
 - Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
 - Unit 5: Political Participation
6. **What skills will I learn?** Students will learn how to read and analyze primary and secondary sources. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in respectful, thoughtful discussions with their peer and teacher.
7. **Is this course for me?** Students need to assess their overall course load and decide if they can give their best effort to a college level class.

The following are minimum recommendations:

 - Students have a 3.5 or higher overall GPA.
 - Students have earned a B or higher in English.
 - Students have a strong interest in learning about government and politics.
8. **I am interested in taking AP U.S. Government and Politics next year. What should I do?** You must complete [the required Google Form](#) by Monday, Feb. 8th. .
9. **Will my counselor place me into the class without the course instructor's verification?** No.

10. **How will I know if I am registered for the class?** You will receive a School Loop email as proof of your registration in the class.
11. **I have more questions about AP U.S. Government and Politics, what should I do?** You can read about the course in more detail on AP CollegeBoard's website:
<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-us-government-politics-course-overview-effective-fall-2018.pdf>