

Danville Area School District
Course Overview and Scope and Sequence

Course Title: AP US Government & Politics
Content Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: 10th Grade (11th/12th)
Date Developed: June 2023

COURSE OVERVIEW:

AP U.S. Government and Politics 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. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project. The AP US Government & Politics Course and Exam Description defines concepts, skills, and understandings required by representative colleges and universities for granting college credit or placement. This outline is the basis for the course at Danville Area High School.

ANCHOR STANDARDS:

- **CONSTITUTIONALISM (CON)** The U.S. Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among branches of government and allocates power between federal and state governments. This system is based on the rule of law and the balance between majority rule and minority rights.
- **LIBERTY AND ORDER (LOR)** Governmental laws and policies balancing order and liberty are based on the U.S. Constitution and have been interpreted differently over time
- **CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY (PRD)** Popular sovereignty, individualism, and republicanism are important considerations of U.S. laws and policy making and assume citizens will engage and participate.
- **COMPETING POLICY-MAKING INTERESTS (PMI)** Multiple actors and institutions interact to produce and implement

possible policies.

- **METHODS OF POLITICAL ANALYSIS (MPA)** Using various types of analyses, political scientists measure how U.S. political behavior, attitudes, ideologies, and institutions are shaped by a number of factors over time.

KEY COURSE TEXT AND MATERIALS:

- *American Government: Stories of a Nation* (2019 Edition) by Abernathy & Waples (textbook)
- Teacher-created course website used in conjunction with Google Classroom (Google Site found at https://sites.google.com/danvillesd.org/mrmastdhs/home)
- Tech Tools - Google tools (sites, classroom, docs, slides, forms)
- Foundational Documents (US Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, etc.)
- Required US Supreme Court cases
- *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Gale One File, Facts on File* (periodical & research sources from DHS Library subscriptions)
- AP US Government & Politics: Course & Exam Description (College Board - 2022)

KEY ASSESSMENTS:

Formative: textbook chapter reading quizzes, foundational document activities, argument essays, writing prompts, projects

Summative: unit tests (multiple choice & free response), AP US Government & Politics exam

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE					
Unit	PRIORITY STANDARDS	SUPPORTING STANDARDS	ASSESSMENT	MATERIALS	TIMEFRAME
Foundations of American Democracy	CON, LOR, PMI	Concept Application, SCOTUS Application, Source Analysis, Argumentation	textbook chapter reading quizzes, foundational document activities, argument essay, unit test (multiple choice & free	textbook, teacher site, foundational documents, required SCOTUS cases	25 days

			response)		
Interactions Among Branches of Government - Legislative & Executive	CON, PMI	Concept Application, SCOTUS Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis, Argumentation	textbook chapter reading quizzes, foundational document activities, projects, argument essay, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site, foundational documents, required SCOTUS cases	30 days
Interactions Among Branches of Government - Bureaucracy & Judiciary	CON, PMI	Concept Application, SCOTUS Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis	textbook chapter reading quizzes, foundational document activities, projects, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site, foundational documents, required SCOTUS cases	15 days
Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	CON, LOR, PRD, PMI	Concept Application, SCOTUS Application, Source Analysis, Argumentation	textbook chapter reading quizzes, foundational document activities, argument essay, writing prompts, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site, foundational documents, required SCOTUS cases	25 days
American Political Ideologies & Beliefs	PMI, MPA	Concept Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis	textbook chapter reading quizzes, writing prompts, projects, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site	15 days
Political Participation - Elections & Campaigns	PRD, PMI, MPA	Concept Application, SCOTUS Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis, Argumentation	textbook chapter reading quizzes, argument essay, projects, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site, required SCOTUS cases	20 days
Political Participation - Parties, Interest Groups, & the Media	PRD, PMI, MPA	Concept Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis, Argumentation	textbook chapter reading quizzes, presentation, writing prompts, unit test (multiple choice & free response)	textbook, teacher site	20 days
AP Exam Prep & Final	CON, LOR, PRD,	Concept Application,	AP US Government &	College Board	remaining

Project	PMI, MPA	SCOTUS Application, Data Analysis, Source Analysis, Argumentation	Politics exam, final project	released exams, teacher site	school days prior to and after exam