



GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Course Profile: US Government and Politics AP

<u>Department</u>	Social Studies	
<u>Course Name</u>	Advanced Placement US Government and Politics	
<u>Course Length</u>	1 Year	
<u>High School Credits</u>	1 Credit	
<u>Description</u>	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.	
<u>Target/eligible students</u>	11th & 12 th Grade Students (North High) 12th Grade Students (South High)	
<u>State Learning Standards Link(s)</u>	Grade 12: Participation in Government and Civics 12.G1 Foundations of American Democracy 12.G2 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 12.G3 Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties of Citizenship 12.G4 Political and Civic Participation 12.G5 Public Policy	Pg. 45
<u>Primary texts and materials</u>	College Board: AP US Government and Politics Course and Exam Description Harrison, Brigid C., et al. <i>American Democracy Now</i> . McGraw-Hill Education, 2022. Lasser, William ed. <i>Perspectives on American Politics</i> . Houghton Mifflin 2004. O'Conner, Karen, et al., <i>American Government</i> . Pearson, 2018 Wilson, James Q., <i>American Government: Institutions and Policies</i> . Houghton Mifflin Co. 2008 Woll, Peter ed. <i>American Government Readings and Cases – Fifteenth Edition</i> . Pearson, 2004. Required Foundational Documents ● Federalist 10 ● Brutus 1 ● The Declaration of Independence ● The Articles of Confederation ● The Constitution of the United States of America ● Federalist 51 ● Letter from a Birmingham Jail ● Federalist 70 ● Federalist 78	

	Required Supreme Court Cases ● Marbury v. Madison (1803) ● McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) ● Schenck v. United States (1919) ● Brown v. Board of Education (1954) ● Baker v. Carr (1961) ● Engel v. Vitale (1962) ● Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) ● Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969) ● New York Times Company v. United States (1971) ● Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972) ● Roe v. Wade (1973) ● Shaw v. Reno (1993) ● United States v. Lopez (1995) ● McDonald v. Chicago (2010) ● Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) (2010)		
<u>Scope/Sequence</u>	*Standards/ Themes	Key Ideas, Term, and Concepts	
Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy	<u>Constitutionalism</u> Why are there debates about the balance of power between the federal and state governments? <u>Liberty and Order</u> Is the Bill of Rights necessary? Why or why not? <u>Competing Policy-Making Interests</u> How does the Constitution affect you and the choices you make?	1.1: Ideals of Democracy 1.2 Types of Democracy 1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights 1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation 1.5 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution 1.6 Principles of American Government 1.7 Relationship Between the States and Federal Government 1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism 1.9 Federalism in Action	p. 35
Unit 2: <u>Interactions Among Branches of Government</u>	<u>Constitutionalism</u> 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? <u>Competing Policy-Making Interests</u> In what ways has the evolution of government powers affected Americans and their daily lives?	2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives 2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress 2.3 Congressional Behavior 2.4 Roles and Powers of the President 2.5 Checks on the Presidency 2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power 2.7 Presidential Communication 2.8 The Judicial Branch 2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch 2.10 The Court in Action 2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch 2.12 The Bureaucracy 2.13 Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority 2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable 2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government	p. 51
Unit 3: <u>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</u>	<u>Constitutionalism</u> In what ways does the Constitution attempt to limit abuse of government powers?	3.1 The Bill of Rights 3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion 3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech	p. 73

	<u>Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy</u> How can individuals and groups help protect civil liberties and civil rights? <u>Competing Policy-Making Interests</u> Why have Supreme Court decisions about civil liberties and civil rights changed over time?	3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press 3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms 3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety 3.7 Selective Incorporation 3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused 3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy 3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection 3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements 3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights 3.13 Affirmative Action	
<u>Unit 4:</u> <u>American Political Ideologies and Beliefs</u>	<u>Competing Policy-Making Interests</u> How do our core beliefs about the role of government affect our behavior? How does our view of what freedom is shape our opinions? <u>Methods of Political Analysis</u> _Why are some opinion polls better than others? How can policy-makers use information from political science to make decisions?	4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics 4.2 Political Socialization 4.3 Changes in Ideology 4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology 4.5 Measuring Public Opinion 4.6 Evaluating Public Opinion Data 4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties 4.8 Ideology and Policy Making 4.9 Ideology and Economic Policy 4.10 Ideology and Social Policy	p. 94
<u>Unit 5:</u> <u>Political Participation</u>	<u>Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy</u> Why do some people choose to participate in government while others do not? How does your social network affect your political beliefs? <u>Competing Policy-Making Interests</u> Why might you join a political party? Why might you choose not to? <u>Methods of Political Analysis</u> How does who you are affect whether you participate or not?	5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior 5.2 Voter Turnout 5.3 Political Parties 5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt 5.5 Third-Party Politics 5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making 5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes 5.8 Electing a President 5.9 Congressional Elections 5.10 Modern Campaigns 5.11 Campaign Finance 5.12 The Media 5.13 Changing Media	P 109