

AP US Government and Politics

Welcome to AP US Government and Politics! This course is designed to give you a college-level, non-partisan, look into “the key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States.” (College Board) This is a rigorous higher education course that will involve the analysis of many of our foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, an array of statistical data, and various other text and visual sources. To be successful in AP Government, you will need a strong work ethic and a commitment to hone your research and study skills. My goal is to provide you with not only the tools to earn college credit on the AP Exam in May, but also the knowledge and skills to be more informed and engaged civic leaders in our nation. I am looking forward to working with you all next year!

The purpose of this preliminary assignment is to introduce you to the document that will be woven into each of our units this year, and which acts as the key foundation for our course: The United States Constitution. Having a basic understanding of the elements of this document will allow us to hit the ground running. For this assignment, you will be creating a working outline for the document, which we will build upon when we return.

This assignment will be due **at the end of the first week of class**. Completed, it can be used on a series of Constitution Quizzes during the first unit. Only students with a completed assignment will be allowed to use these notes on the quizzes. You will need to have a **hard copy** for class on the due date, though the assignment may be typed.

Use the US Constitution to answer the following questions. You do not need complete sentences, but **answers** must be typed. Think of this as an outline of the document that we can build on throughout the semester. The Constitution is available in many sources, but here is a good one to use:

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactiveconstitution>.

PREAMBLE:

1. What are the purposes of the new government?

ARTICLE I: The Legislative Branch:

1. Name the two branches of the legislature. What are they jointly called? What qualifications to be a member of each?
2. Who is the chief officer of the House of Representatives? Of the Senate?

3. Describe the impeachment process.
4. How often must Congress meet? Why?
5. What is a quorum? What are the Rules of Proceedings? The Journal of Proceedings?
6. What is a revenue bill? What is different about this bill?
7. Describe the skeletal outline of passing a bill into law.
8. What are the two kinds of vetoes?
9. What were some of the powers exclusively held by Congress (include at least 8)?
10. What power does Congress have over trade?
11. *Pay special attention to the last clause of Section 8 (clause 18)—the elastic clause.*
How does this function?
12. Section 9 includes some of the basic civil liberty protections in the Constitution.
What are they?
13. Why are titles of nobility prohibited?
14. How do the election procedures differ for the House and the Senate?

ARTICLE II: The Executive Branch:

1. What is the term of office for the President and the qualifications for the office?
2. How is the President elected?
3. How can a President be removed from office? List the reasons.
4. What are the Constitutional duties of the President?
5. What power does the President share with the Senate?

ARTICLE III: The Judicial Branch:

1. How is the judicial power distributed?
2. How long do federal judges serve? Why?

3. What are the exclusive powers (original jurisdiction) of the Supreme Court?
4. What are the appellate powers of the Supreme Court?
5. What is treason?

ARTICLE IV:

1. What are the guarantees to citizens of every state?
2. How are new states to be admitted?
3. What is a republican form of government?
4. What is full faith and credit? How does it affect state laws?

ARTICLE V: The Amending Process:

1. Describe the methods by which the Constitution can be amended. How do these illustrate the principle of federalism?

ARTICLE VI:

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. Do you see the cause for state-centered government conflict in this article? How?

ARTICLE VII: The Ratification Process:

1. How is the Constitution ratified?

VOCABULARY FOR THE CONSTITUTION:

Define the following terms.

- Enumerated powers:
- Delegated powers:
- Implied powers:
- Advice and consent:
- Writ of habeas corpus:
- Bill of attainder:
- Naturalization:
- Pocket veto:
- Ex post facto:
- Extradition:

THE AMENDMENTS:

THE BILL OF RIGHTS: *Briefly summarize each of the following amendments and the rights that they protect.*

- First
- Second:
- Third:
- Fourth:
- Fifth:
- Sixth:
- Seventh:
- Eighth:
- Ninth:
- Tenth:

VOCABULARY FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS: *Define the following terms and list their corresponding amendment.*

- Due process:
- Indictment:
- Grand jury:
- Jeopardy:
- Reserved powers:

1. Which amendments deal with the protection of voting rights and suffrage?
2. Which amendments deal with the rights of the accused and the justice system?
3. What is the significance of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments in the context of US history?
4. Which amendments deal specifically with the powers of the President?
5. Which amendments deal specifically with the powers of Congress?

If you have any questions or need help, feel free to get in touch: dtyminski@fayacademy.org

