

**Department:** Social Studies  
**Course:** AP United States Government and Politics  
**Credits:** 10

## STUDENT PROFICIENCIES

**Course Description:** AP U.S. Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U. S. politics. Students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes.

**Assessment Procedures:** Students in Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics will average at least a "C" grade on all assigned work including tests, quizzes, homework, essays, papers, etc., as evaluated by the teacher for each evaluation period.

Upon completion of the course of study, the students will have completed the following proficiencies.

- a. Read and analyze and interpret related literature, newspapers and articles.
- b. Draw inferences and make conclusions on related literature.
- c. Detect any bias of an author or writing by analyzing its content.
- d. Prepare for and discuss in class issues related to the following topics: Constitution, political beliefs, political parties and interested groups, institutions, and civil rights liberties.
- e. Recognize and accept the divergent views of specific racial, ethnic or political groups.
- f. Define and support arguments for both sides of an issue.
- g. Analyze the structure and function of the Congress, the presidency, federal courts, bureaucracy and other government institutions.
- h. Define, record, recall and appropriately utilize vocabulary associated with politics and government.
- i. Analyze and evaluate the impact of interest groups and PACs on government policy.
- j. Analyze and understand the impact of families, schools and the media in developing, challenging and/or perpetuating political and social beliefs.
- k. Gain an appreciation for the development and defense of issues involving civil rights and civil liberties.
- l. Apply independently and/or cooperatively the process of writing critical essays and papers. This process includes planning, drafting, revising and editing, and using standard English for the following:
  - writing for a specific audience
  - writing with a particular bias
  - writing for a particular purpose
  - utilizing various forms of expression
- m. Apply independently and/or cooperatively skills in the following:
  - critically analyzing and reviewing of print and non-print media
  - formulating and developing discussion and debate questions
  - developing and using different roles in a classroom or group setting
  - developing and utilizing roles in simulation activities

- n. Assume a variety of roles in a group setting; ie., leader, observer, facilitator, listener or recorder.
- o. Develop and utilize proper note taking skills for lecture and discussion sessions.
- p. Utilize proper techniques in the research and development of a term paper including:
  - using the media center and all of its related facilities
  - using the proper citation and bibliography formats as seen in the Guide to the Research Guide
  - Developing and utilizing work processing skills in the production of the final draft