



Fairfield Ludlowe High School - Fairfield Warde High School

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Insert Full Year/Semester

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory college-level course is designed to give students an analytical perspective on politics and government in the United States. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of general concepts used to interpret United States government and politics and will develop the skills necessary for analysis of specific examples. Students will also become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the modern American political landscape. Students will interpret and utilize data relevant to government and politics in sustained written arguments. This course fulfills the civics requirement for graduation and is open to 12th grade students only. Completion of summer reading and writing assignments is a course requirement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Understand important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to US government and politics.
- Understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures).
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to US government and politics.
- Analyze and interpret different types of primary and secondary sources of fundamental importance and relevance to topical inquiry.
- Analyze the importance of context and point of view in historical and political interpretation
- Analyze and evaluate sources and interpretations (e.g. credibility, perspective, bias, and authenticity; verifiable or unverifiable; fact or interpretation).
- Demonstrate an understanding of our American heritage.

UNITS OF STUDY

- Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government
- Institutions of National Government
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Political Beliefs and Behaviors
- Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media
- Public Policy

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING (see FPS BOE [Policy 6154.1AR](#) and [Policy 6146.1AR](#))

Cumulative/In-Progress Grade:

- 10% of the grade will be based on formative assessments, homework completion, or behavior.
- 90% will be based on summative assessments based on a minimum of eight assessments. Individual Tests, Projects, Performance Tasks, Mid-Chapter Tests, Summative Quizzes, Written Papers, Labs etc.

End-of-the-Year Grade:

- 80% of the overall course grade will reflect the student's mastery of course content and skills during the school year through the Cumulative/In-Progress Grade.
- 10% of the End-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Mid-Year Assessment
- 10% of the End-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Final Assessment.

Grade Reporting

- All grades will be communicated through Infinite Campus
- Summative assessment results will be reported back to the student within ten school days from the date of submission or the due date.

Guidelines for Late Work:

- Late work will be accepted for both summative and formative tasks within a defined timeline agreed upon between the student and the teacher.
- The total points may be reduced as a penalty for late work.

As outlined in the Student Parent Handbook, academic dishonesty is defined as, “*plagiarizing another person's work from any resource and submitting it as one's own, and/or plagiarizing by paraphrasing or using parts of another person's work (ideas, text, images, etc.) without citing it as a resource in context or in a footnote.*” Consequently, submitting text from ChatGPT or other generative artificial intelligence programs will be considered plagiarism and will be addressed as such within our Academic Integrity Policy.

Insert Additional Grading Information Here

MATERIALS

Insert Course Materials Here (ie. Textbook, Binder, Calculator, Highlighters)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Insert Course Expectations Here

EXTRA HELP

Insert Course Expectations Here

Insert Additional Information Here