AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS COURSE OVERVIEW

Course at a Glance

Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP U.S. Government and Politics curricular components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with approximate weighting and suggested pacing. Please note, pacing options are provided for teaching the course for a full year and for a single semester.
- Progression of topics within each unit, including the location of required foundational documents or Supreme Court cases.
- Spiraling of the big ideas and practices across units.

Teach

DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES
Disciplinary practices spiral across units.

- 1 Concept Application
- 2 SCOTUS Application
- 3 Data Analysis
- 4 Source Analysis
- 5 Argumentation

BIG IDEAS
Big ideas spiral across units.

- CON Constitutionalism
- LIB Liberty and Order
- PRD Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy
- PMI Competing Policy-Making Interests
- MPA Methods of Political Analysis

FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS AND SUPREME COURT CASES

- Foundational Document
- Supreme Court Case

UNIT 1 Foundations of American Democracy

~16/~8 Class Periods | 15–22% AP Exam Weighting

- LOR 1 — 1.1 Ideals of Democracy
- LOR 4 — 1.2 Types of Democracy
- CON 1 — 1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights
- CON 4 — 1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
- CON 1 — 1.5 Ratification of the United States Constitution
- PMI 4 — 1.6 Principles of American Government
- CON 5 — 1.7 Relationship Between States and the Federal Government
- CON 2 — 1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
- CON 5 — 1.9 Federalism in Action

Personal Progress Check 1
Multiple-choice: ~20 questions
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
- Argument Essay (partial)
- Argument Essay (partial)

UNIT 2 Interactions Among Branches of Government

~28/~14 Class Periods | 25–36% AP Exam Weighting

- CON 1 — 2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives
- CON 3 — 2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress
- CON 2 — 2.3 Congressional Behavior
- CON 3 — 2.4 Roles and Powers of the President
- CON 1 — 2.5 Checks on the Presidency
- CON 4 — 2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power
- CON 1 — 2.7 Presidential Communication
- CON 2 — 2.8 The Judicial Branch
- CON 1 — 2.9 Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch
- CON 2 — 2.10 The Court in Action
- CON 1 — 2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch
- CON 4 — 2.12 The Bureaucracy
- CON 1 — 2.13 Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority
- CON 3 — 2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable
- PMI 3 — 2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government

Personal Progress Check 2
Multiple-choice: ~45 questions
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
- Quantitative Analysis
- SCOTUS Comparison

UNIT 3 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

~26/~13 Class Periods | 13–18% AP Exam Weighting

- LOR 1 — 3.1 The Bill of Rights
- LOR 2 — 3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion
- LOR 5 — 3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech
- LOR 4 — 3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press
- LOR 4 — 3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms
- LOR 5 — 3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety
- LOR 2 — 3.7 Selective Incorporation
- LOR 5 — 3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused
- LOR 3 — 3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy
- PRD 4 — 3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection
- PMI 3 — 3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements
- CON 3 — 3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights
- CON 1 — 3.13 Affirmative Action

Personal Progress Check 3
Multiple-choice: ~30 questions
Free-response: 3 questions
- SCOTUS Comparison
- Argument Essay (partial)
- Argument Essay (partial)

UNIT 4 American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

~22/~11 Class Periods | 10–15% AP Exam Weighting

- MPA 1 — 4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics
- MPA 3 — 4.2 Political Socialization
- MPA 3 — 4.3 Changes in Ideology
- MPA 4 — 4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology
- MPA 3 — 4.5 Measuring Public Opinion
- MPA 3 — 4.6 Evaluating Public Opinion Data
- PMI 1 — 4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties
- PMI 4 — 4.8 Ideology and Policy Making
- PMI 3 — 4.9 Ideology and Economic Policy
- PMI 4 — 4.10 Ideology and Social Policy

Personal Progress Check 4
Multiple-choice: ~30 questions
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
- Quantitative Analysis
- Quantitative Analysis

UNIT 5 Political Participation

~18/~9 Class Periods | 20–27% AP Exam Weighting

- MPA 1 — 5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior
- MPA 3 — 5.2 Voter Turnout
- PMI 1 — 5.3 Political Parties
- PMI 4 — 5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
- PMI 3 — 5.5 Third-Party Politics
- PMI 3 — 5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making
- PMI 1 — 5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes
- PRD 5 — 5.8 Electing a President
- PRD 5 — 5.9 Congressional Elections
- PRD 5 — 5.10 Modern Campaigns
- PRD 2 — 5.11 Campaign Finance
- PRD 5 — 5.12 The Media
- PRD 2 — 5.13 Changing Media

Personal Progress Check 5
Multiple-choice: ~30 questions
Free-response: 3 questions
- Quantitative Analysis
- Argument Essay
- Argument Essay