



## *Mehlville School District*

### **Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics**

#### General Course Information

#### AP College Board Course Outline and Units

### **General Course Information**

<b>Course Name: Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics</b>	
Department: Social Studies	Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Duration/Credits: 1 year/ 1.0 credit	Prerequisites: Students who are successful in AP United States Government and Politics must be strong independent readers and organized writers. Students must be motivated and able to complete college-level course work. Successful completion of a previous high school history course is required.
BOE Approval Date:	Course Code: H1090W
<b>Course Description:</b>	
<p>Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a year long college level course which will give the student an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States and the State of Missouri. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States government and politics, and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States government and politics. The student will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. The student will be able to explain through classroom discussion and written response what role elections, interest groups, political parties and public opinion play in the policy making process. The student will consult a variety of primary and secondary sources, including but not limited to magazines, journals, and a variety of newspapers.</p>	
<b>Course Rationale:</b>	
<p>In order to be engaged and informed citizens, the student must understand the foundation, evolution, and modern application of United States government as laid out in the Constitution and other Founding documents. The student in AP United States Government and Politics will be challenged to investigate the obligations and</p>	

**BOE Approval Required to Change**

rights of citizenship, as well as the political groups, beliefs and ideas influencing American government.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. The student will read and analyze key primary source documents related to the formation of the American Republic and the development of the United States Constitution. (A+ Reading)
2. The student will analyze the structure, essential rights, and liberties that comprise the United States Constitution, its evolution over time and applications to modern government.
3. The student will explain 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).
4. The student will evaluate the role political parties, interest groups and the media have on the formation of public policy through class discussion and written analysis. (A+ Writing)
5. The student will compare the roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local governments in a federalist system, with specific application to Missouri government.
6. The student will investigate the function of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the United States Government.
7. The student will research and compare important facts, concepts and theories pertaining to United States government and politics. (A+ Research)
8. The student will interpret basic data relevant to United States government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables and other formats).
9. The student will discuss relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately and develop their connections across the curriculum, including contemporary news analyses that strengthen student understanding of the curriculum. (A+ Speaking and Listening)

### **Standards Alignment:**

AP College Board US Government

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Click [here](#) to view full College Board site information, including unit descriptions and goals.