



Course Overview

High School | AP US Government & Politics - Last Updated on April 23, 2025

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement

- Social Studies prepares the nation’s young people for college, careers, and civic life.
- Inquiry is at the heart of social studies instruction which involves interdisciplinary applications, deep understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines.
- Young people require analytic, strategic, chronological, and critical thinking skills to prepare for participating in democratic decision-making.
- Social studies instruction directly and explicitly connects to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.

Course Description

AP U.S. Government and Politics offers students a rigorous, college-level introduction to the constitutional foundations, institutions, political behaviors, and policies that define the American political system. Through the study of foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and contemporary political events, students explore how power is distributed and exercised at the federal and state levels, and how citizens engage in the democratic process. Key topics include the structure and functions of Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, civil liberties and civil rights, political ideologies and beliefs, and mechanisms of political participation such as voting, political parties, and interest groups.

In addition to content knowledge, students develop critical skills in political analysis, data interpretation, argumentation, and source evaluation. They will learn to apply key concepts to real-world scenarios, compare legal and constitutional arguments, and write evidence-based essays. A required civics-based project gives students the opportunity to examine the policymaking process or engage in community or political action. This course is ideal for students who want to become informed participants in democracy and are prepared for the challenge of analytical reading, thoughtful discussion, and argumentative writing.

STANDARDS

College Board - AP US Government and Politics - Skills and Objectives (2023)

1.A 1.B 1.C 1.D 1.E 2.A 2.B 2.C 2.D 3.A 3.B 3.C 3.D

3.E 3.F 4.A 4.B 4.C 4.D 5.A 5.B 5.C 5.D LO.1.A LO.2.A

LO1.3.A LO1.4.A LO1.5.A LO1.6.A LO1.6.B LO1.7.A LO1.8.A LO1.9.A

LO2.1.A LO2.2.A LO2.3.A LO2.4.A LO2.5.A LO2.6.A LO2.7.A LO2.8.A



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LO2.9.A

LO2.10.A

LO2.11.A

LO2.11.B

LO2.12.A

LO2.13.A

LO2.14.A

LO2.14.B

LO2.15.A

LO2.15.B

LO3.1.A

LO3.1.B

LO3.2.A

LO3.3.A

LO3.4.A

LO3.5.A

LO3.6.A

LO3.7.A

LO3.8.A

LO3.9.A

LO3.10.A

LO3.11.A

LO3.12.A

LO3.13.A

LO4.1.A

LO4.2.A

LO4.3.A

LO4.4.A

LO4.5.A

LO4.6.A

LO4.7.A

LO4.8.A

LO4.9.A

LO4.9.B

LO4.10.A

LO4.10.B

LO5.1.A

LO5.1.B

LO5.2.A

LO5.3.A

LO5.3.B

LO5.4.A

LO5.5.A

LO5.6.A

LO5.6.B

LO5.7.A

LO5.8.A

LO5.8.B

LO5.9.A

LO5.10.A

LO5.11.A

LO5.12.A

LO5.13.A

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this course are aligned to the College Board learning objectives and skills for AP US Government & Politics.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

The following assessment types will be used during the course:

- Curriculum-based Measures
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments

SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Below is a list of suggested strategies for high-quality instruction in Social Studies:

- Instructional components outlined in the *Framework for Teaching*
- Lecture/discussion
- Directed research
- Demonstrations
- Inquiry-based instruction



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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
O'Connor, Karen, and Larry J. Sabato. <i>American Government: Roots and Reform</i> . 14th ed., Pearson, 2022.		