AP Government Curriculum Map

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy — August and September

American independence and early national government, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, Federalist and Anti-Federalist arguments, separation of powers, checks and balances, limited government, federalism, historical relationship between state and federal governments

Foundational Documents/Cases: Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Federalist 10, Brutus 1, Federalist 51, McCulloch v. Maryland, United States v. Lopez

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government, part 1 — October and November

Structure of Congress, powers of Congress, policymaking procedures, committees, the budget process, influences on Congress, presidential power, the vice presidency, the Cabinet, the imperial presidency, presidential communication

Foundational Documents/Cases: Baker v. Carr, Shaw v. Reno, Federalist 70

Unit 3: Interactions Among Branches of Government, part 2 — November and December

The federal bureaucracy, spoils and merit, delegated discretionary authority, congressional oversight, bureaucratic inefficiency, the federal courts, basic judicial procedure, historical development of the Supreme Court, process of Supreme Court rulings

Foundational Documents/Cases: Federalist 78, Marbury v. Madison

Unit 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights — January and February

Protections in the Bill of Rights, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, the Second Amendment, due process, civil liberties and national security, Reconstruction amendments, civil rights movement, women's rights, affirmative action

Foundational Documents/Cases: Schenck v. United States, Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, New York Times v. United States, Engel v. Vitale, Wisconsin v. Yoder, McDonald v. Chicago, Gideon v. Wainwright, Roe v. Wade, Brown v. Board of Education, Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Unit 5: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs — February and March

Core values and attitudes, the political spectrum, cultural factors, measuring public opinion, party ideology and policymaking, economic ideologies, social issues, privacy

Unit 6: Political Participation — April and May

Voting and voter behavior, demographics, voting laws, structure of political parties, development of major parties, third-party and independent campaigns, administration of elections, primaries and caucuses, election campaigns, campaign finance, interest groups, lobbying, the media

Foundational Documents/Cases: Citizens United v. FEC