

AP US Government and Politics Overview

AP US Government and Politics provides students with the opportunity to earn their required course credit for civics/government and potential college credit. This advanced political science course supplies the political knowledge and reasoning processes that enable students to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in the debates that shape American politics and society. By the end of the course, they will be able to analyze current and historical political events, develop factually accurate and well-reasoned arguments, and recognize both their rights and responsibilities as American citizens.

Reading Requirements:

- Students are expected to read **20-30 pages per week**.
- The reading needs to be thorough, with an emphasis on taking detailed notes for comprehension. Beyond reading the textbook, students will analyze and evaluate primary sources, employing critical thinking skills to apply the principles contained in these famous documents to today's political landscape.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework primarily involves reading and note-taking, estimated at **25-35 minutes per day**, if spread evenly throughout the week. Court case analysis and current event assignments will also be regularly assigned and are part of the expected homework time.
- Class time is reserved for discussions, debates, and other active learning.
- Students are expected to be independent learners, motivated to achieve at a high level without reminders.
- Strong research and writing skills are required. Students should be able to support an argument with evidence, as well as respond to opposing arguments and counterclaims.

Assessments:

- **Quizzes** will be given in each unit to reinforce learning.
- There will be **4-5 major tests per semester** covering substantial content. Each test includes:
 - A day of multiple-choice questions based on real-world scenarios and important concepts.
 - A day of free-response questions.
- Homework will be occasionally checked, focusing on current events or unit-related assignments, such as presidential polling analysis or interest group case studies.

AP US Government Summer Assignment

All AP US Government students will complete a Constitution Study Guide using the Constitution and online resources, such as the Interactive Constitution, sponsored by the National Constitution Center.