AP Government and Politics
2026-27 12th Grade
Instructional Plan

August 10, 2026

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Brittany Rolston
Email: brittany.rolston@midlandisd.net
Phone: 432-240-8700

WHAT IS AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)?

AP courses aim to teach students the skills and information needed to pass an end of year exam given by the College Board. Any student who receives a score of three (or above) on College Board's five-point grading system typically receives college credit by most public colleges.

Moreover, regardless of exam score, many colleges and universities view participation in the AP program as a sign of a motivated student. The course is advanced not only in reading and writing, but in the depth of the material. Students taking this course will learn at an accelerated pace and must exhibit responsibility, good work ethic, and a drive to learn to achieve college readiness skills and (potential) college credit.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a college-level course providing analysis and evaluation of contemporary political concepts and issues related to American government. Theories, beliefs, and institutions related to the political process will be studied and interpreted. The knowledge of political concepts will be applied to understand how the government process works and assist in analyzing political behaviors and consequences. Many factors will be addressed and connections will be developed throughout the curriculum.

COURSE ACTIVITIES:

The main objective of the course is for students to become well-informed and efficient citizens. Students will develop more political efficacy while coming to understand their political viewpoints and beliefs. Also, the rigor of the course will develop students' critical thinking skills. Evaluating and synthesizing concepts is essential in succeeding at the college level. Students will leave the course well-prepared for the rigors of upper level coursework at their universities. Writing will also be emphasized as structured and concise writing will be necessary to succeed in higher level education.

Required Primary Sources: Foundational Supreme Court Cases:

Declaration of Independence
Articles of Confederation
United States Constitution
The Federalist Papers:
- Federalist 10, Federalist 51, Federalist 70, Federalist 78

Anti Federalists Paper:
- Brutus I

Emancipation Proclamation
Letter from Birmingham Jail by Martin Luther King, Jr
Core Principles of Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations"
Marbury v. Madison (1803) Fundamental Economic Theories: Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations:
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
Schenck v. US (1919)
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
Baker v. Carr (1962)
Engel v. Vitale (1962)
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
Tinker v. Des Moines CSD (1969)
New York Times and Co. v. US (1971)

Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)

McDonald v. Chicago (2010)
Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (2010)

AP Government and Politics
2026-27 12th Grade
Instructional Plan

August 10, 2026

GRADES - Click here for → YWLA Grading Policy

Major (Test, Projects, Writing)	60%
Minor (Notes, Daily Work)	40%

Classroom Resources (examples below)

- Google Classroom
- Heimler Videos on Youtube
- Crash Course AP Government
- Bill of Rights Institute

AP Government and Politics Exam Date: Tuesday May 4th, 2027

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS (CED Breakdown and Description)

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy - 15-22% of Exam
- Political Theories
- The Development and Goals of the Constitution
- The Branches of American Government: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances Federalism: National and State Political Relationships

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government - 25-26% of Exam
- Congress
- The Presidency
- Federal Bureaucracy
- Federal Judiciary System

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights - 13-18% of Exam
- Provisions of Bill of Rights and Interpretations
- The 14th Amendment Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies - 10-15% of Exam
- The Citizen and the Government
- Political Efficacy
- Public Opinion
- Political Ideologies and Influences Voting and Elections

Unit 5: Political Participation - 20-27% of Exam
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups and Political Action Committees
- Mass Media

Optional Materials/Resources

AMSCO Advanced Placement Edition *United States Government and Politics,* Third Edition, by David Wolfford

AP Government and Politics
2026-27 12th Grade
Instructional Plan

August 10, 2026

Anything else you want to include for your course:

Question Type **Number** **Time** **Percentage of Exam** Multiple Choice 55 55 minutes 50% Concept Application Question 1 20 minutes 12.5% Quantitative Analysis Question 1 20 minutes 12.5% Supreme Court Comparison Question 1 20 minutes 12.5% Argumentative Essay 1 20 minutes 12.5%

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!
