AP U.S. Government & Politics
SEMESTER 1 2026-2027
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Darrin Boehm
Room: 117E
Email: boehm@west-fargo.k12.nd.us
Office Hours: 6:00am to 7:30am
Prep Period: Period 4 (A Days) 2:05 pm to 3:35 pm
Period 4 (B Days) 2:05 am to 3:35 pm

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

- **Abraham Lincoln**

TEXT: Abernathy, Scott F., and Karen Waples. *American Government: Stories of a Nation for the AP® Course*. 2nd ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2025.

COURSE GOAL: First, to prepare students to become knowledgeable, thoughtful, and participatory citizens. Democracy depends on YOU! Second, to prepare students for the AP U.S. Government & Politics College Board Exam.

COURSE CONTENT: The AP U.S. Government & Politics course is divided into six key content areas:

(1) Foundations of American Democracy
(2) Branches of Federal Government
(3) Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
(4) American Political Ideologies & Beliefs
(5) Political Participation

The way you view the American political system depends on your view of life in general. Your desires lead you to expect certain results from the political system. If these results are not achieved, frustration ensues. But one must view our political system in a fashion that does not preclude frustration but rather renders it palatable, thus increasing one's frustration tolerance level. The maintenance of a Federal Republican form of government requires almost constant vigilance.

POLICIES:

1. All work is due at class time of the assigned day. One day late work will be half-credit, after one day it will be a ZERO.
2. Make-up policies – consult the student handbook.
3. If absent for a school-related activity, you must speak to me AHEAD of time.
4. NO CELLPHONE USE IN SCHOOL
5. Be organized. IPAD'S MAY ONLY BE USED WHEN THE INSTRUCTOR CALLS FOR THERE USE IN CLASS.

GRADING POLICIES: Grades will be based on an evaluation of the following:

1. Exams (70%)
2. Daily Work: Online assignments, essays, simulations, DBQ's, quizzes, terms, class discussion guides, study guides, political cartoons, charts, and graphs, research papers, and special assignments. (30%)
3. Grading Scale:

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
0% - 59%	F

** There are no exemptions from the Final Exam.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: **All students will take responsibility for the success of this course by willingly taking part in class discussion whether in large / small groups, or online. Active participation is a cornerstone of effective learning. You are academically talented students and theory behind group discussion is that you learn from each other.**

ACADEMCI INTEGRITY: **Academic integrity is a guiding principle in education that encourages students to act responsibly and honestly in their scholarly work. Students can demonstrate academic integrity by:**

- **Citing Sources**
- **Using quotation marks**
- **Showing where information came from even when summarizing.**
- **Completing exams in a fair and honest manner, as if the teacher is watching.**

Examples of Academic dishonesty or lack of integrity include:

- **Plagiarism**
- **Cheating**
- **Falsification**
- **Unapproved collaboration**
- **Using unauthorized online aids or Artificial Intelligence**
- **Buying or selling exams, notes, assignments, or other intellectual property without permission.**
- **Helping someone else cheat.**

Consequences for academic integrity violations may include failing grades, parental notification, and/ or dismissal from class.

Using your IPAD, cellphone, or Apple Watch (any digital device) to cheat is a violation of Academic Integrity.

FINAL EXAM: **The Final Exam will be a comprehensive exam at the completion of the Semester. It will include an in-depth portion on institutions of our national government, since that is the major component of the AP College Board Exam for U.S. Government and Politics. There is the possibility that the Final Exam will be like a released College Board Exam in format.**

"I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me, and I didn't have the heart to let him down."

○ Abraham Lincoln