

Course Information

AP US Government and Politics

Department: Social Studies

Course Length: 2 semesters

Grade levels): 10-12

Date Last Reviewed: August 2024

Prerequisite (if applicable) : None

Board Approved (if known):

Course Description and Purpose: This course will provide students with the opportunity to study American politics and government within the rigorous demands of an A.P. environment. As a result, students will be required to do an extensive amount of reading and writing. The ability to write free response essays is an important skill necessary for success in the class. These skills will be taught in the context of the class, but previous knowledge of the components of essay writing is essential. The class will examine the following aspects of government and politics: Constitutional underpinnings of United States government, political beliefs and behavior, political parties, interest groups and mass media, institutions of national government, public policy and civil rights and liberties. U.S. Government and Politics is equivalent to a one-semester college class.

Course Standards:

[Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies](#)

Political Science Strand: Knowledge about the structures of power, authority, and governance and their evolving functions in contemporary society is essential if young citizens are to develop civic responsibility. Young people become more effective citizens and problem solvers when they know how local, state, and national governments and international organizations function and interact.

Wisconsin students will...

Social Studies Inquiry Practices and Processes

1. Construct meaningful questions that initiate an inquiry.
2. Gather and evaluate sources.

3. Develop claims using evidence to support reasoning.
4. Communicate and critique conclusions.
5. Be civically engaged.

Political Science

1. Identify and analyze democratic principles and ideals.
2. Examine and interpret rights, privileges, and responsibilities in society.
3. Analyze and evaluate the powers and purposes of political and civic institutions.
4. Develop and employ skills for civic literacy.

Desired Results

AP US Government & Politics Course and Exam Description

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-us-government-and-politics-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

Textbook

Presidential Election Update American Government: Stories of a Nation 6 & Document Reader. Scott, Abernathy; Karen Waples. BFW Publishers. 2021.