



Advanced Placement Government & Politics Syllabus

Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School | 2025-2026

Mrs. Courtnie Fulcher, Ed.S.

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Course Description:

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

Supplies:

1.5-inch Binder | Red Spiral Notebook (college-ruled) | College-Ruled Notebook Paper | Dividers | Blue or Black ink pen or pencil | Highlighters | Laptop (school issued or personal)

Teacher Wish List: Pencils, Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Colored Copy Paper, Individually Wrapped Candy

Classroom Expectations:

- ★ If what you are doing interferes with learning, hurts someone's heart, or prevents you from being your best self you shouldn't be doing it.
- ★ Come to class prepared & ready to learn when the bell rings.
- ★ RESPECT (yourself, your classmates, your teacher, your school, and other people's property)
- ★ Bring a Laptop (school-issued or personal) & Charger to class every day
- ★ No cell phones or headphones/earbuds.

Consequences:

To maintain an environment conducive to learning, students must follow behavioral guidelines. If a student chooses not to abide by these guidelines I will use some of the following methods to encourage appropriate behavior: *Verbal Warning | Seat Change | Student Time-Out | Note home to parent via remind, email or Call Home | Teacher Detention | Discipline Referral to Administration* (Teacher's discretion depending on severity)

Grading:

Each semester represents an 18-week grading period.

- Progress Report 1 will be issued at the end of the first 6 weeks.
- Progress Report 2 will be issued at the end of 12 weeks.
- Semester Report Card will be issued at the end of the 18-week grading period.

RCBOE Academic Grading Scale:

A: 90-100 | B: 80-89 | C: 75-79 | D: 70-74 | F: 69 & Below

Course Grading Category Weights:

60% Minor Assignments: quizzes, labs, and other graded assignments to assess standards

40% Major Assignments: unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments

AP Exam:

Students will take the AP Government & Politics exam on **May 5, 2026**. Students will receive their scores through their College Board accounts around July 5th. *A score of 3, 4, or 5 is required to receive college credit.*

Staying in Touch:

Communication is important for your child's academic and behavioral success.

The primary method for communication with me is email, FulchCo@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us.

Class Remind: Text @ _____ to 81010

Canvas:

We will be utilizing Canvas this year for assigning & completing classwork/homework, turning in assignments, class discussions, etc. Canvas can be accessed from your laptop through Launchpad.

Late Work:

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. Assignments submitted after the due date will be reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at Mrs. Fulcher's discretion.

Make-Up Work:

Being in class and on time is an important part of being successful in this course. When you are out, you are missing important instructional material and information. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to see Mrs. Fulcher for make-up work, including tests and quizzes. Per RCBOE policy, you have 5 days to complete make-up work upon returning to school.

Reading Assignments | Homework:

Readings will be given frequently. You are expected to have all readings done by the due date as they will facilitate our class discussions/notes. This is a college-level course, homework and reading outside will be essential for this class. Being up to date on what is happening right now within our government is an important asset to this course so you will be required to complete current event assignments.

AP Government Class Outline | Tentative Schedule

- ★ *These dates are subject to change at the teacher's discretion.*
- ★ *Test will consist of a multiple choice section and FRQ (free response question). Test days may be split into 2 different days or may all be done in 1 class period.*
- ★ *Quizzes will be given frequently on AMSCO readings and Course content in between test dates*
- ★ *Note: This is an election year - we are learning the units out of order so the election content is completed around the same time as the presidential election.*

<u>Unit # and Name</u>	<u>Tentative Dates</u>	<u>Tentative Test Date</u>
1 - Foundations of American Democracy		
2 - Interactions Among Branches		
4 - American Political Ideologies & Beliefs		
5 - Political Participation		
3 - Civil Liberties & Civil Rights		
REVIEW FOR AP EXAM		AP EXAM MAY 5, 2026
Final Exam Project	May 7th - End of the school year	Final exam project will be due on or before the scheduled exam period.

AP Gov Units

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy	15-22% of Exam	Ideals of Democracy Types of Democracy Government Power & Individual Rights Challenges of the Articles of Confederation Ratification of the U.S. Constitution Principles of American Government Relationship between the States and National Government Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism Federalism in Action
Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government	25-36% of Exam	Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress Congressional Behaviors Roles and Powers of the President Checks on Presidency Expansion of Presidential Power Presidential Communication The Judicial Branch The Role of the Judicial Branch The Court in Action Checks on the Judicial Branch The Bureaucracy Discretionary and Rulemaking Authority Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable Policy and the Branches of Government
Unit 3: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	13-18% of Exam	The Bill of Rights 1st Amendment: Freedom of Religion, Speech, and Press 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety Selective Incorporation Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy Social Movements and Equal Protection Government Responses to Social Movements Balancing Minority and Majority Rights Affirmative Action
Unit 4: American Political Ideologies & Beliefs	10-15% of Exam	American Attitudes about Government & Politics Political Socialization Changes in Ideology Influence of Political Events on Ideology Measuring Public Opinion Evaluating Public Opinion Data Ideologies of Political Parties Ideology and Economic Policy Ideology and Social Policy
Unit 5: Political Participation	20-27% of Exam	Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior Voter Turnout Political Parties How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt Third-Party Politics Interest Groups Influencing Policymaking Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes Electing a President Congressional Elections Modern Campaigns Campaign Finance The Media Changing Media
Required Documents		<i>Declaration of Independence</i> <i>Article of Confederation</i> <i>Constitution (including all 27 Amendments)</i> <i>Brutus No. 1</i> Federalist No.10 Federalist No.51 Federalist No.70 Federalist No.78 Letter from a Birmingham Jail
Required Supreme Court Cases		Marbury v. Madison (1803), McCulloch v. Maryland (1819), Schenck v. United States (1919), Brown v. Board of Education (1954), United States v. Lopez (1955), Baker v. Carr (1961), Engel v. Vitale (1962), Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969), Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972), Shaw v. Reno (1993), McDonald v. Chicago (2010), Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)