



Salesian High School – Course Syllabus

Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics

2020-2021

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Tutoring:	Mon – Thurs, 3:00pm-4:00pm		

I. Welcome!

Welcome to the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics course. Congratulations for stepping up to the challenge of taking a college level course while still in high school!

II. Course Description (as outlined by the College Board)

AP United States Government and Politics is a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will read and analyze U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions between political institutions and behavior. They will read and interpret data, develop evidence-based arguments, and engage in an applied civics or politics-based project.

III. Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to...

- Evaluate the theories and styles of democratic government.
- Analyze the philosophy and ideologies that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution.
- Investigate the beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders.
- Examine and understand the political socialization process.
- Trace the development and impact of political parties in the United States.
- Understand the operation and evaluate the role of elections in American politics.
- Investigate the role and effects of interest groups and political action committees
- Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political system.
- Examine the Constitutional framework for Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court.
- Investigate the formation of policy agendas.
- Evaluate the role of Congress and the President in the enactment of public policy.
- Identify substantive rights and liberties.
- Trace and analyze the development of civil liberties and civil rights resulting from legislative enactment and judicial interpretation.

IV. Required Texts and Materials

All materials and texts will be provided by the teacher. The instructor will let students know if they need to purchase any study aid materials for their iPad classes throughout the year. (At most the study aid materials would be about \$25 if needed)

- AP Classroom
- IPAD (Provided by the school), must have with you in every class.
- 2 Spiral Notebooks OR a 3-ring binder with 3 dividers for notes

V. Grading Policy

Here is a listing of assessment categories and their weighting in the semester total. Students' grades will be kept up to date on Aeries.

Assessment	% of Final Grade
CW/Foundational Homework/Notes	30%
Reflective Projects/Essays	35%
Exams	25%
Semester Final	10%
	100%

Chapter Tests (Unit Quizzes/Exams)

At the conclusion of each chapter of study (course text), students will take a 100 point test. The test will adhere to the AP US Government and Politics exam format by including AP level multiple choice and free response questions.

Reflective Projects/Assignments/Essay

Through the year, students will engage in writing assignments designed to prepare them for the free response questions on the AP exam. In addition, students will write analytical essays exploring important topics in current events, politics, and government policymaking. Students will also analyze political cartoons & graphs using SOAPStone.

CW/Foundational Homework/Notes

Students will have one written homework assignment each week, consisting of an essay usually culled from past AP exams. Students will also be required to keep up with reading. This is a college level course, which requires students to read the text in order to maximize time spent in class. Students will take detailed notes during the lecture portion of the class.

Semester Final

The semester exam is a comprehensive assessment of the first two major units of study. The exam will adhere to the multiple choice/FRQ format of the AP exam.

VI. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: Students will be allowed to turn in late work up to a week after the assignment is assigned.

- Students who turn in late work on or before the deadline will receive a 30% deduction in points. Late work will not be accepted after the grading period deadlines.
- If you are absent you will have 2 days until the assignment is considered late.
- Students are encouraged to turn in their work on time since it is the only way to guarantee that they will receive full credit for their work.
- **You must write out your full name, title of assignment (Ex: 1.2 # 10-22), and date when submitting your late work. Failure to follow these procedures will result in the late assignment not being accepted by your teacher.**

Make up Test/Quizzes policy: If you are absent on a day that a test or quiz is assigned, it is your responsibility to speak with the teacher on rescheduling the missed test/quiz. You must reschedule your missing test/quiz within two days of your most recent absent. Teacher has final discretion on the date and time you will take your makeup test/quiz, and failure to attend makeup date and time for the test/quiz will result in a zero for the missing test/quiz. If you fail to reschedule with your teacher within the two days of returning to school from your absence, you will also receive a zero on the missing test/quiz.

Extra Credit Policy: Extra credit may be given throughout the year based on the teacher's discretion.

I. General Policies & Expectations

- Make sure all cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off before entering the classroom
- Come to the classroom on time, with all necessary classroom materials and completed assignments, and ready to learn
- Respect all those around you and their belongings
- Be active in class activities
- Do not interrupt the person talking, whether teacher or student; wait your turn or until called upon
- Obtain permission before leaving your seat or the classroom
- Follow school rules while in the classroom

Outline for Course

You will find the full course outline on the Course Exam Description link: [CED Link](#)