

Advanced Placement U.S. Government

Mrs. Janice L Sutton

Class Description:

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 Advanced Placement Government Class. In this class, we will dive into the understanding of the politics in the United States. We have a tight schedule, but we will be covering the following topics:

Topic	% of Exam
Unit One: Foundations of American Democracy	15-22
Unit Two: Interactions Among Branches of Government	25-36
Unit Three: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	13-18
Unit Four: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs	10-15
Unit Five: Political Participation	20-27

Course Description

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics will provide students an intellectual foundation for observing, analyzing, and understanding national politics in the United States. Using primary and secondary source documents, as well as analysis of specific examples, students will examine and evaluate the institutions of American government, political parties and elections, mass media, political behavior, public policies, and the development of individual rights and liberties and their impact on citizens. The content of this course is equivalent to that of an introductory college course in U.S. government and politics.

Goals

Students successfully completing this course will:

- know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics
- understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures)
- be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats), and be able to critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum.

Course Expectations

AP Government is a highly structured, very demanding college-level course. Students are required not only to read the college-level text, but to augment this material through independent research, class discussion, and

supplemental reading. It is imperative that a high-level academic environment exists and that all students are dedicated to learning, are highly motivated, and willing to put forth the time and effort required for a course of this intensity. This course is conducted using a variety of methods, including lecture, discussion, simulations, cooperative learning activities, and independent research. Reading assignments are extensive and must be completed before class each day. Students will be tested on reading material that is not discussed in class. Students will be required to maintain ongoing knowledge of current events through newspapers, news magazines, and news broadcasts. To be thoroughly prepared for class each day, students should expect approximately one hour of homework per night. Extra study sessions and study groups may be required.

AP Final Monday, May 6th, 2025 at 12:00 PM

AP Exam Format

Section	# of Questions	Timing	Percent of Total Exam Score
I. Multiple Choice	55	80 minutes	50%
II. Free Response	4 Mandatory	1 hour 40 minutes	50%
Concept Application	1 st Question	20 minutes	12.5%
Qualitative Analysis	2 nd Question	20 minutes	12.5%
SCOTUS Comparison	3 rd Question	20 minutes	12.5%
Argument Essay	4 th Question	20 minutes	12.5%

Classroom supplies you will need every day are:

- Pencil AND pen (Optional: color pencils and markers)
- Binder (2"), dividers, college ruled notebook paper, and homework notes
- Textbook (can leave yours at home as we will have one in the classroom)
- Computer

Not required but suggested supplies include:

- Baron's AP Government and Politics review book (you do not need this for the class, but students in the past found this book very helpful when studying for the class and the exam).

GRADING: The CMS grading scale will be followed:

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

GRADING PROPORTIONS

Grade Type	Percentage	Types of Assignments
Prepare Grades	20%	Homework, warm-ups, and exit tickets
Rehearse Grades	30%	Reading & Vocabulary Quizzes, Mini-Projects, & Classwork

Perform Grades	50%	Unit Assessment, Performance Tests, Writing Assignments, Projects with Rubrics
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Late work and Make-up policy: Late work is defined as any assigned work that is not completed and ready to turn in before coming to class on the day it is due. Work not turned in on time will be counted as being “late”. Late assignments will be accepted for a grade until one week (5 school days) after the “Perform” date unless the “Perform” grade falls at the end of the quarter for which the principal may set the final date for all work to be submitted. Late penalties of no more than 5 points **per day** (unless absent) will be deducted for late work (using a 100 point scale). Assignments submitted after the “Perform” date will receive a 50% and feedback on progress will be provided to the student. Work is due the first day upon returning after an EXCUSED absence for no penalty. If a student is absent on an exam day, they must arrange to take the MAKE-UP exam upon return to school but within 5 days of the original date. MAKE-UP exams will not receive the option for extra credit or curve and will be randomized assessment from materials covered within the text and class. NO make-up exams/missing work/retest will be scored after the 5 days of original exam date per CMS 2023/24 scoring policy.

Retake Policy on Unit Assessments:

In the event that a student makes less than an 80% or higher on a Unit Assessment, the student has the opportunity to take a retest on the same material but not the same test. Any student wishing to retake a unit test must do so within the 5 days after the original exam. A student will not be able to score higher than a 79% on the retake.

PowerSchool Parent Portal Information: Parents may access their student’s grades and attendance using the Parent Portal. The teacher keeps grades updated every week. **Canvas:** Parents can also be observers on their child’s Canvas account.

CMS Attendance Policy:

High school students absent from eleven class periods will receive a grade of F for the course. **This rule applies to ALL absences, whether excused or unexcused.**

Students may appeal the decision with the Principal in accordance with procedures established.

The Principal’s decision on the appeal is final.

ADDITIONAL HELP: Tutoring is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays **2:20 to 3:00** and other times by appointment. This is also the time that you can make-up or retake a test, make-up a quiz, or other assignments..

Welcome to the class! I am excited to share this class with you and hope we can learn together! If you need to contact me you can reach me at janicel.sutton@cms.k12.nc.us