



COURSE SYLLABUS

AP[®] United States Government & Politics

— at Rahway High School (Rahway, N.J.)



AUTHORIZED
AP Courses
2022-2023



CollegeBoard

AP[®]

PREPARED BY

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Course Overview

AP® U.S. Government and Politics is a college-level year-long course that not only seeks to prepare students for success on the AP Exam in May, but also provide students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in discussions and debates that are currently shaping American politics and society. It is important to note that this course is not a history course; it is a political science course that studies the interconnectedness of the different parts of the American political system as well as the behaviors and attitudes that shape this system and are the byproduct of this system.

AP® U.S. Government and Politics accomplishes these goals by framing the acquisition of political knowledge around enduring understandings and big ideas about American government and politics that can be applied to a set of disciplinary practices by using a set of reasoning processes. Through the development of this set of political knowledge, disciplinary practices, and reasoning processes, students will be able to analyze current and historical political events like a political scientist and develop factually accurate, well-reasoned, thoughtful arguments and opinions that acknowledge and grapple with alternative political perspectives.

The AP® Exam

The AP® U.S. Government and Politics Exam will be held on **Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:00 AM.**

SECTION 1

55 Multiple Choice Questions



Time:
1 Hour, 20 Minutes

The questions on the multiple-choice section will ask students to:

- Analyze and compare political concepts
- Analyze and interpret quantitative, text-based, and visual sources
- Apply course concepts, foundational documents, and Supreme Court decisions in a variety of contexts and to real-world scenarios.

SECTION 2

4 Free Response Questions



Time:
1 Hour, 40 Minutes

The questions on the free-response section will ask students to:

- Apply political concepts in real-world scenarios
- Compare the decisions and implications of different Supreme Court cases
- Analyze quantitative data and the implications of that data
- Develop an argument using required foundational documents as evidence

As the breakdown of the AP® Exam highlights, success in this course and on the AP® Exam requires far more than the memorization of political knowledge. Success in this course and on the AP® Exam requires connection-making with the aim of being able to analyze political information regardless of the format in which the information is presented, and develop a factually accurate, thoughtful, and well-reasoned opinion regarding this information.

CR1

Textbook and Additional Sources

The primary textbook for this course is: Harrison, Brigid Callahan, Jean Wahl Harris, and Michelle D. Deardorff. *American Democracy Now*. 6th Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education, 2019. Additional publications may be used to supplement and aid instruction and student understanding.

Students will follow current events using a variety of news media sources including, but not limited to, newspapers (e.g. *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*), televised news and programs (e.g. ABC World News Tonight, CBS News Tonight, NBC Nightly News, FOX News, CSPAN), and associated print and visual media.

Additionally, readings and related course activities where students engage with a variety of online media, text-based, quantitative, and visual sources will be taken from:

- **Oyez** – This online database provides succinct and accessible overviews for all Supreme Court cases
- **The National Constitution Center’s Interactive Constitution** – This online resource is an annotated U.S. Constitution that includes essays that frame the debates underlying key clauses and provisions of the U.S. Constitution. The National Constitution Center also has a blog, videos, and other resources that apply constitutional principles to current events.
- **Khan Academy®** – This site provides video clips of key course concepts in addition to practice questions with qualitative, quantitative, and visual stimuli.

CR2

Required Foundational Documents & Cases

Foundational Documents

This course includes the nine (9) required foundational documents and additional classic and contemporary scholarly writings in political science to promote the comparison of political ideas and their application to recent events. **These include:** *Federalist No. 10*; *Brutus No. 1*; The Declaration of Independence; The Articles of Confederation; The Constitution of the United States (including the Bill of Rights and subsequent Amendments); *Federalist No. 51*; “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (Martin Luther King, Jr.); *Federalist No. 70*; and, *Federalist No. 78*.

Supreme Court Cases

This course includes the following fifteen (15) required Supreme Court cases: *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), *United States v. Lopez* (1995), *Engel v. Vitale* (1962), *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969), *New York Times Co. v. United States* (1971), *Schenck v. United States* (1919), *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010), *Baker v. Carr* (1961), *Shaw v. Reno* (1993), and *Marbury v. Madison* (1803).

Outline of Required Course Content

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

- Balance of governmental power and individual rights
- Debate and ratification of the U.S. Constitution
- Checks and balances and competitive policy-making process
- Federalism

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government

- Congress
- The presidency
- Judicial branch and judicial review
- Federal bureaucracy

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Interpretation of the Bill of Rights
- 14th Amendment due process and selective incorporation
- 14th Amendment equal protection and advancement of equality
- Influence of citizen-state interactions and constitutional interpretation on public policy
- Supreme Court's protection and restriction of minority rights over time

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

- Development of political beliefs
- Measurement and political influence of public opinion
- How ideology shapes policy outcomes

Unit 5: Political Participation

- Protections, barriers, demographics, and other political participation factors
- Political parties, interest groups, and social movements
- Federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules
- Media's influence on political participation

List of Lessons

Based on a [2022-23 Pacing Guide](#) developed by Mr. Clark, the following lessons will be prepared and delivered in preparation for the AP® United States Government and Politics Exam.

See next page →

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY (15 LESSONS)	UNIT 4: AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGY AND BELIEFS (20 LESSONS)
Enlightenment Thought: The State of Nature, The Purpose of Government, Types of Democracies, Critiques of Democracies The American Revolution and Declaration of Independence: Analysis of the Declaration of Independence The Articles of Confederation: The Articles of Confederation, Weaknesses and Challenges of the Articles The U.S. Constitution: Debate and Drafting of the Constitution, Constitutional Compromises, The Three Branches of Government, Checks and Balances, Federalism, Interpretations of Federalism, Must-Know Constitutional Clauses	Political Ideology: Political Ideologies, Political Socialization, Generational Politics, Major Political Events in American History Political Polling: Types of Polling, Polling Methodology, Evaluating Public Opinion Data Political Parties: Washington's Warning on Political Parties, Political Identity, The American Political Spectrum, American Political Parties Public Policy: Economic Policy, Monetary Policy, Trade Policy, Social Policy, Entitlement Programs, Other Social Issues
UNIT 2: INTERACTIONS AMONG BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT (22 LESSONS)	UNIT 5: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (28 LESSONS)
Congress: Bicameral Legislature, Powers of Congress, Structure of Congress, How Bills Become Law, Congress and the Federal Budget, Congressional Behavior, Redistricting and Gerrymandering The President of the United States: Powers of the President, The Executive Office, Impeachment and Removal of the President, Expansion of Presidential Power, Presidential Communication The Judicial Branch: The Federal Judicial System, The Supreme Court, Judicial Review, Precedent, Legitimacy and Criticism of the Supreme Court, Checks on the Judiciary The Bureaucracy: The Federal Bureaucracy, The Iron Triangle, Civil Service and Civil Service Reform, Oversight of the Bureaucracy	Voting: The Right to Vote, Models of Voter Behavior, Voter Turnout, Governmental Roles in Voting, Factors Influencing Voter Choice Political Parties and Voting: Linkage Institutions, Party Platforms, National Party Structure in the United States, Impact of Political Parties, Critical Elections, Third-Party Politics, Barriers to Third Party Success Interest Groups: Growth of Interest Groups, Examples and Actions of Interest Groups, Special and Public Interest Groups, Lobbying Elections: Presidential Candidates, Presidential Election, The Electoral College, Debate over the Electoral College, Congressional Elections Campaigning: Campaign Finance, <i>Citizens United</i>
UNIT 3: CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES (21 LESSONS)	Media: Role of Media, Types of Media, Social Media and the Internet Note: The order and length of lessons are subject to change throughout the school year.
The Bill of Rights: Ratification of the Bill of Rights, Selective Incorporation The First Amendment: Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Press The Second Amendment: Origin and Text of the Second Amendment, Second Amendment SCOTUS Cases Rights of the Accused: Due Process, Search and Seizure, Right to Remain Silent, Right to Counsel, Cruel and Unusual Punishment Right to Privacy: Substantive Due Process and <i>Roe v. Wade</i> Social Movements and Equal Protection: The Civil Rights Movement, Women's Equality, LGBT, Government Response to Social Movements, Minority vs. Majority Rights, Affirmative Action	

Grading & Assessment

Department Grading Policy

The following category weighting for Advanced Placement courses at Rahway High School has been approved by the RHS Social Studies Department for the 2022/23 school year:

Assessment (Quiz/Test): 70% Classwork and Class Participation: 30%

District Grading Scale: A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-63 F: 62-50

Assessment and Assignment Types

Assessment: Content Knowledge Assessments, Skill Assessments, Reading Checks, Multiple-Choice Topic Assessments, Unit Assessments, Document Based Questions (DBQs), Free Response Questions (FRQs)

Classwork and Class Participation: Weekly Class Participation, Discussion Questions, Key Term Flashcard Assignments, Journals, Classwork (including graphic organizers and handouts), Notebook Check

** Assessment and assignment types are in the sole discretion of the teacher and may be changed during the course of the school year.*

Marking Period Calendar

Marking Period Dates

	Quarter	Start Date	End Date
S1	Q1	September 6, 2022	November 4, 2022
	Q2	November 5, 2022	January 26, 2023
S2	Q3	January 27, 2022	April 4, 2023
	Q4	April 5, 2023	June 21, 2023

CR4-9

Skill Development

This course provides disciplinary practices that describe what a student should be able to do while exploring course concepts. The table below presents these disciplinary practices, along with their associated skills, which students should develop throughout the course.

 AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Disciplinary Practices				
Practice 1	Practice 2	Practice 3	Practice 4	Practice 5
Concept Application 1 Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context.	SCOTUS Application 2 Apply Supreme Court decisions.	Data Analysis 3 Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics.	Source Analysis 4 Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources.	Argumentation 5 Develop an argument in essay format.
SKILLS				
1.A Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 1.B Explain political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 1.C Compare political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 1.D Describe political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors illustrated in different scenarios in context. 1.E Explain how political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply to different scenarios in context.	2.A Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of required Supreme Court cases. 2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources. 2.C Compare the reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of a required Supreme Court case to a non-required Supreme Court case. 2.D Explain how required Supreme Court cases apply to scenarios in context.	3.A Describe the data presented. 3.B Describe patterns and trends in data. 3.C Explain patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions. 3.D Explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 3.E Explain possible limitations of the data provided. 3.F Explain possible limitations of the visual representation of the data provided.	4.A Describe the author's claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning. 4.B Explain how the author's argument or perspective relates to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 4.C Explain how the implications of the author's argument or perspective may affect political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. 4.D Explain how the visual elements of a cartoon, map, or infographic illustrate or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors.	5.A Articulate a defensible claim/thesis. 5.B Support the argument using relevant evidence. 5.C Use reasoning to organize and analyze evidence, explaining its significance to justify the claim or thesis. 5.D Use refutation, concession, and rebuttal in responding to opposing or alternate perspectives.

CR10

Applied Civics Project

Research Project

With teacher approval, students conduct individual or collaborative research projects that may include attending local/state/federal governmental meetings, collecting information from different sides on a local political issue, or serving in a local political election campaign. They then create an oral report with visual aids and/or quantitative data to present back to the class or another audience, tying their research and experience back to course concepts. Students who engage in collaborative research projects will be responsible for individual presentations. **This project is a course requirement.**

Contact Information

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