

Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: Political Beliefs, Behaviors, and Parties
Enduring Understandings	- Individual citizens hold a variety of beliefs about their government, its leaders, and the U.S. political system in general; taken together, these beliefs form the foundation of U.S. political culture. - Demographics influence political outcomes. - Mechanisms exist that allow citizens to organize and communicate their interests and concerns. - Elections, election laws, and election systems on the national and state levels demonstrate the nature of both party and individual voting behavior. - The American government system enjoys a high level of legitimacy in the eyes of the American people. - The United States is currently experiencing a period of party dealignment.
Essential Questions	- How do political beliefs form, evolve, and what are the processes by which they are transmitted? - What are the political consequences of group differences in political beliefs and behavior. - What are the functions and structures of political parties, and the effects they have on the political process? - What are the ideological and demographic differences between the two major parties, as well as third parties? - Why has public trust of government decreased since the 1960s? - Why has the United States been a predominantly two party system since its founding? - What are the causes of party dealignment? - How does the Electoral College influence the way candidates campaign for the presidency? - To what extent has campaign finance reform succeeded and/or failed?
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH4, RH6, RH7, RH10 WHST4, WHST5, WHST6, WHST7
Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Chart & graph analysis Short videos Cooperative Learning Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking	Analytical Critiques (CT,LS,CS,CI) Practice FRQs (CT, CI) Reading Quizzes (LS, CT)

LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Democrat & Republican Google Presentation (CS,CI) Political Socialization Paper (CT) Unit Test (CT, LS)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage Census.org 2012 MA Initiative Ballot Questions Supreme Court case synopses from Oyez.org Political Ideology Quiz - ontheissues.org <i>John B. Anderson and Ray Martinez III</i> , New York Times, 4/6/06 <i>Michelle Norris and Melissa Block</i> , <i>All Things Considered</i> , NPR, 5/24/06 <i>One Nation, Slightly Divisible</i> , Atlantic Monthly, 12/01 <i>For Freshman in Congress, Focus is on Raising Money</i> , Boston Globe, 5/12/13 <i>Nevada Bows to NH, sets Feb. Caucuses</i> , Boston Globe, 10/23/11 2012 Presidential Election exit poll data Daily Show with Jon Stewart

Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government
Enduring Understandings	• The government established by the Constitution is structured around the concept of federalism. • There was widespread debate amongst the founding fathers concerning the power of the federal government. • The concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances exist to limit the power of each branch in the federal government. • The power of the federal government has expanded over the 200+ years of the US Constitution.
Essential Questions	• Why did many of the founding fathers fear factions? • Why did the founding fathers establish a form of government based on the concept of federalism? • What were the goals & concerns of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists in regard to the US Constitution? • To what extent can the federal government exert its influence on the state governments? • Explain how Supreme Court rulings and enumerated and implied powers in the US Constitution have increased the power of the federal government.
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH3, RH4, RH6, RH10 WHST4, WHST5

Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Chart & graph analysis Cooperative Learning Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Analytical Critiques (CT,LS,CS,CI) Practice FRQs (CT,CI) Reading Quizzes (LS,CT) Unit Test (CT,LS)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage Supreme Court case synopses from Oyez.org <i>United States Constitution</i> <i>2nd Treatise on Government</i> , John Locke <i>Federalist 10</i> , James Madison <i>Federalist 44</i> , James Madison <i>Anti-Federalist Paper No. 17</i> <i>The American Political Tradition</i> , Richard Hofstadter

Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: Institutions of National Government: The Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy
Enduring Understandings	• The government established by the Constitution is structured around the concepts of the separation of powers and checks and balances. • Each institution of the national government has both formal and informal powers. • The power balances and relationships between the institutions of national government may evolve gradually or change dramatically as a result of crises. • Ties exist between the various branches of national government and political parties, interest groups, the media, and state and local governments. • The President often exerts more unchecked power in the international sphere than the domestic sphere. • Pluralist, Elite, and Hyperpluralist theories attempt to explain why government functions the way it does.

	Iron Triangles dominate some areas of policy making.
Essential Questions	- How are the powers of government divided within the constitutional framework of the United States? - What role do the concepts of “separation of powers” and “checks and balances” play in limiting government? - To what extent has the presidency become an “Imperial Presidency”? - What is the process and the hurdles a bill must pass through to become a law? - In what ways is the President’s power limited by Congress? - To what extent can party leadership influence the legislative process? - Describe the differences between House and Senate rules that make it likely that legislation may pass in one chamber but not in the other. - What are the political roles played by a variety of lobbying and interest groups? - How do pluralist, elite, and hyperpluralist theories demonstrate the motivating interests of government officials? - Is the bureaucracy a fourth branch of government? - What are the checks on the bureaucracy? - What is the role and structure of sub-government iron triangles in the federal government?
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH4, RH6, RH7, RH10 WHST4, WHST5, WHST6
Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Chart & graph analysis Short videos Cooperative Learning Role Playing Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Analytical Critiques (CT,LS,CS,CI) Practice FRQs (CT,CI) Reading Quizzes (LS,CT) Presidential Report Card (CT) Mock Congress Bill (CT,LS,CS,CI) Iron Triangles (CI) Unit Test (CT,LS)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage

	Princeton Model Congress <i>War Powers Resolution</i>, 11/7/73 <i>In Praise of Pork</i>, John Elwood & Eric Patashnik <i>If, As Ralph Nader Says, Congress is the "Broken Branch," How Come We Love Our Congressmen So Much?</i>, Richard F. Fenno, Jr. <i>Term Limits - Still a Bad Idea</i>, The New American, 5/25/10 <i>Arguments Against Term Limits</i>, CATO Institute, 3/28/95 <i>How Partisan Politics Drove Olympia Snowe Away</i>, CNN, 3/2/12 <i>Why the 2010 Census Stirs Up Partisan Politics</i>, Time, 2/15/09 <i>State Lawmakers Set to Redraw US House Map</i>, Boston Globe, 10/23/11 Apportionment Map from U.S. Census Bureau <i>The Imperial Presidency</i>, Arthur Schlesinger <i>Constitutional Democracy and Bureaucratic Power</i>, Peter Woll Jack Abramoff interview from <i>60 Minutes</i>
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Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: The Federal Courts and Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
Enduring Understandings	• The federal judiciary is an unelected branch of the federal government. • Judicial review empowers the Supreme Court within the system of checks and balances. • The federal judiciary is both checked and unchecked by the legislative and executive branches. • The Supreme Court's interpretation of the 14th Amendment has expanded civil rights and civil liberties protections to Americans while simultaneously weakening the power of state governments in relation to the federal government. • The Supreme Court has applied much of the Bill of Rights to the states through the process of selective incorporation. • The Supreme Court's rulings on racial segregation and civil rights changed dramatically between the 19th-20th centuries. • The Constitution can be interpreted through a strict-constructionist view or through a living Constitution view.
Essential Questions	• To what extent does judicial review empower the Supreme Court within the system of checks and balances. • What checks do the legislative and executive branches have on the judicial branch? What powers of the judicial branch are unchecked? • Though unelected, why does the Supreme Court tend not to stray too far from public opinion? • Explain the significance of majority and dissenting opinions issued by the Supreme Court. • To what extent has the Supreme Court's interpretation of the 14th Amendment expanded Americans' civil rights and civil liberties? • To what extent has the Supreme Court's interpretation of the 14th Amendment weakened the power of state governments?

	• Since the 1960s, has the Supreme Court followed a strict constructionist path or a living Constitution path? • What measures were taken prior to the 1960s to deny African Americans their 14th and 15th Amendment rights? • To what extent have 20th century Supreme Court cases expanded civil liberties?
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH4, RH6, RH8, RH10 WHST4, WHST5
Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Chart & graph analysis Short videos Cooperative Learning Debate Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Analytical Critiques (CT,LS,CS,CI) Practice FRQs (CT,CI) Reading Quizzes (LS,CT) Debate (CT,LS,CS,CI) Unit Test (CT,LS)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage <i>United States Constitution</i> Supreme Court case synopses from Oyez.org Marbury v. Madison from landmarkcases.org <i>Voting Rights Act, 1965</i> <i>A South African Novelist Examines the Plight of "The Negro in the North", Alan Paton, 1954</i> Alabama Literacy Test Packet of Supreme Court Civil rights case synopses written by Dr. Paul Weizer of FSU Issue 8: Should the Federal Courts be Bound by the "Original Intent" of the Framers? <i>Tinker v. Des Moines, 1969</i> <i>Roe v. Wade, 1973</i> <i>The Pentagon Papers</i> , John T. Correll, Air Force Magazine, 2/07 The West Wing: 2 episodes - <i>The Short List & Celestial Navigation</i> , 1999

Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: Public Policy
Enduring Understandings	• The formation of policy agendas, the enactment of public policies by Congress and the president, and the implementation and interpretation of policies by the bureaucracy and the courts are all stages in the policy process. • Entitlement programs consume a growing portion of the federal budget. • The Executive branch and the Legislative branch establish fiscal policy while the Federal Reserve Board establishes monetary policy.
Essential Questions	• Explain why the Federal Reserve Board is given independence in establishing monetary policy. • In what ways do the executive and legislative branches influence fiscal policy? • What are the difficulties in achieving a balanced budget? • Why is legislation to reform/alter entitlement programs difficult to achieve?
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH4, RH7, RH10 WHST4, WHST5
Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Chart & graph analysis Cooperative Learning Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Analytical Critique (CT,LS,CS,CI) Practice FRQs (CT,CI) Reading Quizzes (LS,CT)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage <i>The Cost Conundrum</i> , The New Yorker, 6/1/09 Congressional Budget Office

Course: AP U.S. Government	Unit Title/ Timeframe: The Mass Media
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Enduring Understandings	• The mass media helps shape public opinion, voter perception, public policy, and campaign strategies. • One of the roles of media in a democratic society is to serve as a government watchdog. • Bias within the mass media influences the way news stories are presented.
Essential Questions	• To what extent does the mass media influence public opinion and public policy? • To what extent does bias influence the way news is reported? • Has the 24 hour news cycle of cable television and the internet helped or hurt American politics?
Common Core/ Massachusetts Standards/ AP Standards	RH2, RH4, RH6, RH7, RH8, RH10 WHST4, WHST5
Instructional Strategies* TI = Technology Integration ID = Interdisciplinary connections	Shared Inquiry Informal class discussions Short videos Notes Visuals
Assessment Expectations for Student Learning CT = Critical Thinking LS = Literacy Skills CS = Communication Skills CI = Collaborative/Independent Learning	Media Analysis Project (CT,CS)
Major Resources	Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy 14th ed. FRQs from AP Central U.S. Government homepage CNN, Fox News, MSNBC New Yorker cover 7/21/08 & Vanity Fair cover 8/08 <i>How the Mass Media Divides Us</i> , Diana Mutz