

## AP Government and Politics

### Course Description:

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 provides 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.

### Course Textbook:

AMSCO Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics by David Wolfford \$28.49

### Supplies:

1. Three-ring binder with dividers
2. Black/Blue Pens

### Assessment:

Your grade in this class will be determined by **Canvas**

To encourage blended learning, Canvas will be used in a variety of ways to best serve students throughout the school year. Teachers will be posting weekly to Canvas.

- **Students** must keep up to date with classroom assignments.
- **Assignments:** Students should be familiar with how to navigate the online platform, communicate with their teacher, and submit assignments on time. If there are technology limitations notify the teacher

**Cyberbullying:** As defined by Dictionary.com, “the act of harassing someone online by sending or posting mean messages.” *Please keep in mind that Canvas is designed to work as an extension of the classroom; therefore, anything done on the site through the access of VHS class will be treated the same as if it were said aloud in the classroom. Inappropriate comments or use of the site can result in disciplinary action.* number of factors. The factors are each worth a percentage of your grade. The percentages are as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final Exam 20 %</li><li>• Major (Test, Projects) 45 %</li><li>• Minor (Quizzes, Notebook) 20 %</li><li>• Daily Work 15 %</li></ul>	<b>AP GoPo Exam MAY 5, 2026</b>
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\*Excused absences do not count toward exemption.

\*\*This course is cumulative, content will continually be reviewed and assessed.

**Parents have the opportunity to access your child’s grades via “Infinite Campus.”**

## **Classroom Expectations**

- Be Punctual.
  - Be ready to go Bell to Bell
  - Tardy policy = school policy
- Be Prepared.
  - Bring necessary supplies. -Pen, updated notebook, etc.
  - Restroom breaks will be minimal.
- Be Polite.
  - Respect others.
  - Cleanliness.
  - No food or drink, just water.
  - Avoid Distractions.
- Be Productive.
  - Always do your best.
  - Own it.
  - Invest in yourself and others.
  - Gain and grow knowledge and skills

## **College Board Account**

Students **MUST** have/create an online college board account. This account will be used for class content, AP Exam sign up, and class assessment.

## **AP Exam timeline:**

- ✓ **8.22.25**– Deadline for students to electronically join all AP classes on the College Board website ([APcentral.collegeboard.org](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org)).

**\*Students must fix College Board issues. This cannot be done by teachers or administrators.** Helpline for students and parents 1-888-225-5427

- ✓ **10.24.25** – Deadline for students to register for AP exams on the College Board website.
- ✓ **5.5.25** - AP Exam

## **AP Exams**

There is no cost for students to take the AP Exam

Students are responsible for registering online for their exams

Students are responsible for any fees incurred should they change their decision.

## **Course Breakdown**

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 5: Political Participation

### **Required Foundational Documents**

This course, especially Unit 1, will incorporate the analysis and discussion of nine required foundational documents to help understand the context and beliefs of the founders and their critics and the debates surrounding the writing and ratification of the U.S. Constitution:

- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation
- *Federalist No. 10*
- *Brutus No. 1*
- *Federalist No. 51*
- The Constitution of the United States
- *Federalist No. 70*
- *Federalist No. 78*
- “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

### **Required Supreme Court Cases**

This course, especially Unit 3, will incorporate the analysis of the following 14 required Supreme Court cases as well provide opportunities to connect them to other non-required landmark cases:

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
- *Schenck v. United States* (1919)
- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
- *Baker v. Carr* (1961)
- *Engel v. Vitale* (1962)
- *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
- *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969)
- *New York Times Company v. United States* (1971)
- *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972)
- *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)
- *United States v. Lopez* (1995)
- *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010)
- *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* (2010)

**Student/ Parent Syllabus Signature Page – Please sign and turn in to the teacher tomorrow.**

**Goals:**

1. My goal is to earn a final grade of \_\_\_\_\_ in this course.
2. My goal is to earn a score of \_\_\_\_\_ on the AP Exam for this course.

**Affirmations:**

- I understand that I, as an advanced placement student, am responsible for registering online for my exams. Failure to do so will mean that I am unable to participate in AP for this course during the current school year.
- The school is responsible for meeting College Board deadlines regarding testing registration. Once I have chosen to test/not test and submitted my registration through the College Board website, I am responsible for any fees incurred should I later change my decision.
- I have read this syllabus and understand the standards, requirements, and expectations for Coach Cain's 2025-2026 AP U.S. Government & Politics class.

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email\_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone number to contact\_\_\_\_\_