

# AP US Government and Politics 2017-18

Mr. Taylor

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Brentsville District High School

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Planning: Blocks 3 & 4

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Scoring Components	Page(s)
SC1 The course provides instruction in constitutional underpinnings of United States Government.	3,4
SC2 The course provides instruction in Political Beliefs, Political Behaviors, and Elections.	5,6
SC3 The course provides instruction in Interest Groups.	5,6
SC4 The course provides instruction in Political Parties.	5,6
SC5 The course provides instruction in Mass Media.	5,6
SC6 The course provides instruction in Institutions of National Government.	7,8,9
SC7 The course provides instruction in Public Policy and Public Policy Areas.	8
SC8 The course provides instruction in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.	4
SC9 The course provides students with practice analyzing and interpreting data.	3,4
SC10 The course provides students with practice analyzing information relevant to US government and politics.	3,4
SC11 The course includes supplemental readings, including primary source materials (such as the Federalist Papers).	2
SC12 The course includes supplemental readings, including contemporary news analyses that strengthen student understanding of the curriculum.	2
SC13 The course requires students to answer analytical and interpretive free response questions on a frequent basis.	10

AP United States Government and Politics is an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with an emphasis on policymaking and implementation. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

**Texts**

Edwards, George C., Martin P. Wattenberg, and Robert L. Lineberry. *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy*, 15th ed. New York: Longman, 2009.

SC11—The course includes supplemental readings, including primary source materials (such as the Federalist Papers).

**Supplemental Text**

Woll, Peter. *American Government: Readings and Cases*, 13th ed. New York: Longman, 1999. [SC 11]

SC12—The course includes supplemental readings, including contemporary news analyses that strengthen student understanding of the curriculum.

**Other Materials**

Assigned and used in class: articles from current newspapers, such as *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal* or *Washington Post*; news magazine excerpts from *Time*, *Newsweek*, or *The Economist*; news footage and documentaries; C-SPAN's coverage and current events materials; numerous websites. [SC12]

**Student Conduct**

1. Students are to be **respectful** to the instructor and to each other at all times.
2. **No food or drink** (except for water) is allowed in class.
3. **Absolutely no use of cell phones or electronic devices in class.**
4. Students are to be in their **assigned seat, quiet, and ready to work/already working** when the bell rings.
5. Students must remain in their seats until the bell rings at the end of class.
6. Students should seek to use the restroom during class exchanges and not interrupt class to do so.
7. Students may only ask to use the restroom at the appropriate time (not during instruction or class discussion), must use the designated pass, and must return in an expeditious, timely manner.
8. Only one student is permitted to use the restroom at a time.
9. If restroom privileges are abused, they will be revoked.

**Grading Policy**

Students' grades will be based on successful completion of assignments, presentation of individual and small group projects to the class, and students' scores on quizzes and test. Final grades will be based on the percentage of total possible points a student has earned by the end of the quarter for assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, and participation in class activities in accordance with the PWCS grading scale.

**Assignments:**

Assignments must be completed prior to the day of discussion and review. Unless otherwise indicated all assignments must be completed independently.

**Materials needed every day:**

Blue/Black pen. Paper. Folder or Binder. Texts as directed.

## Course Plan

### Unit I: Foundations of American Government

Preread Edwards et al., pp. 3–26

#### Content Goals

Students should understand the doctrines and historical background to the Constitution; key principles, such as federalism and separation of powers; the ideological and philosophical underpinnings of American government; and theories informing interpretations of the Constitution, including democratic theory, republicanism, pluralism, and elitism. **[SC1]**

SC1—The course provides instruction in constitutional underpinnings of United States Government.

#### Materials

Sections of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; modern commentary on federalism; essay writing rubrics handout.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Introduction and Methods (data analysis, maps, and charts)	pp. 3-29
2	Origins of Constitution	pp. 32-37
3	Articles of Confederation	pp. 37-40
4	Hot Days in Philly	Essay #1
5	Essay Work Day	
6	The Constitution	pp. 41-65
7	Essays Due/Discussion	
8	Peer Reviews	pp. 65-67
9	Feds and Anti-Feds (Federalist #10 and #51)	Woll p. 165 & p. 44
10	Federalist Papers	pp. 51–55
11	The Living Document	
12	The Big 27 (Constitutional Amendments)	pp. 55-61
13	Summary and Timed Writing	pp. 65-67
14	Federal, Federalist, Federalism	pp. 71-77
15	Don't Tax the Bank!!!!!!	pp. 77-78
16	National Supremacy Timed Writing	pp. 77-90
17	Modern Federalism	
18	Modern Federalism	pp. 90–96
19	Review of Foundations and Methods	
20	Unit I Exam—multiple-choice and free-response questions	
21	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit II: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the institutional guarantees to political and civil rights granted under the Constitution; the rights conferred by the American government system; key Supreme Court cases and arguments regarding constitutional protections; the impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on civil rights at the state level; and the impact of judicial decisions on American society. **[SC8]**

**Materials**

Supreme Court decisions on civil rights and civil liberties (*Plessy v. Ferguson*; *Brown v. Board of Education I & II*; *Roe v. Wade*; *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*; *Engle v. Vitale*; *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*) **[SC11]**; current news debates on terrorism and civil liberties. **[SC12]**

**Special Assignment—Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Landmark Cases [SC8] & [SC10]**

Each student is assigned two landmark Supreme Court cases. For each assigned case, the student must prepare a written and oral brief of the case, including the background of the case, points of law, the decision and rationale of the court, and subsequent related cases.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Intro/Court Project Assigned	Case research
2	First Amendment and Incorporation	pp. 101-105
3	Establishment / Free Exercise Clauses	pp.105-110
4	Freedom of Expression – Project Day	pp. 111-122
5	Amendment 1-Project Day	pp. 122-127
6	Amendment 1—Goes On ... Religious Freedom	Woll pp. 121-134
7	Amendment 1—And on... Campaign Finance	Woll pp. 244-261
8	Amendment 1	
9	Rights of the Accused	pp. 127-133
10	Rights of the Accused ( <i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> )	Woll p. 97-101
11	Rights of the Accused	
12	Privacy Issues	Outside reading assignment
13	Privacy Issues	pp. 133–139
14	Intro to Civil Rights	pp. 145-147
15	Conceptions of Equality (Education... <i>Brown v. Board</i> )	pp. 147-154 Woll pp. 113-119
16	Civil Rights Act of 1964	pp. 155–158
17	Race and Ethnicity	pp. 158–164
18	Gender	pp. 165-172
19	Affirmative Action	pp. 172-175
20	Summary and Review	pp. 176-180
21	Unit II Exam—multiple-choice questions	
22	Unit II Exam—free-response questions	
23	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

SC8—The course provides instruction in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

SC11—The course includes supplemental readings, including primary source materials (such as the Federalist Papers).

SC12—The course includes supplemental readings, including contemporary news analyses that strengthen student understanding of the curriculum.

SC10—The course provides students with practice analyzing information relevant to US government and politics.

**Unit III: Political Parties and the Public**

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the mechanisms of transmitting interests to government action, including interest groups, political action committees, and mass media; the role of media coverage and the press on elections and government actions; **[SC3]**, **[SC4]** & **[SC5]** the different historical and ideological beliefs of political parties; demographic groups in the U.S. and their political beliefs; and ways of understanding political beliefs and behavior.

SC3—The course provides instruction in Interest Groups.

SC4—The course provides instruction in Political Parties.

SC5—The course provides instruction in Mass Media.

**Materials**

Supreme Court decisions governing elections **[SC10]**; charts on political party formation and process; the impact of money on politics; graphs and charts on poll design and construction. **[SC9]**

SC10—The course provides students with practice analyzing information relevant to US government and politics.

SC9—The course provides students with practice analyzing and interpreting data.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Public Opinion and Political Action Intro	pp. 183-191
2	Political Socialization	pp. 191–198
3	Public Opinion and Spin 101	pp. 195-200
4	Public Opinion and Spin 101	
5	Political Ideology	pp. 201-206
6	Political Ideology—Litmus Test	Student Activity
7	Political Participation	pp. 206-211
8	Media	pp. 217-218
9	Media and Politics	pp. 218-241
10	Political Parties	pp. 247-271
11	Political Parties	
12	Beliefs and Behavior	pp. 305-325
13	Demographic and Group Behavior	
14	Summary and Review	
15	Unit III Exam—multiple-choice questions	
16	Unit III Exam—free-response questions	
17	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit IV: Campaigning and Elections [SC2]**

**Content Goals**

Students should become familiar with the workings of the electoral process; the role of money and interest groups on campaigns; the laws governing elections; and the way individual campaigns operate on the local, state, and national level.

SC2—The course provides instruction in Political Beliefs, Political Behaviors, and Elections.

**Materials**

Maps, charts, and graphs of electoral outcomes and political participation; charts showing the role of money in politics; contemporary news and Internet coverage and analysis of elections and campaigns; discussion of exit poll data. [SC9]

SC9—The course provides students with practice analyzing and interpreting data.

**Special Assignment—Elections:** The class will divide into Democrats and Republicans. Those who choose to identify with neither party will choose one for the sake of the project. Each party will plan a campaign for a mock presidential election. Each party should choose its candidate and running mate. Each party should also use some combination of the following campaign positions: campaign manager, policy advisors, media consultants, ad specialists, speechwriters, logistics managers, and any other positions deemed necessary by the campaign manager. This project will be given both a group and an individual grade. Individual grades will be given by the instructor after reading evaluations completed by the campaign manager. The group grade depends upon winning the election. In every election, there is a winner and a loser. Unfortunately, the best campaign does not always win. Welcome to politics.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Intro/Election Project	pp. 277–291
2	Campaigning	pp. 292–299
3	Campaign Finance	Handouts on FEC / PACs
4	Project Work Day	
5	Project Work Day	
6	Election Process	
7	Presidential Elections	Woll pp. 188-216
8	Presidential Elections (1960–1980)	pp. 305-322
9	Presidential Elections (1984–2000)	
10	Project Work Day	
11	Project Work Day	
12	Voting Behavior	pp. 323-325
13	Project: Election Day	
14	Election Analysis	
15	Interest Groups—Roles and Theories	pp. 331-357
16	Interest Groups—Action	
17	Summary and Review	
18	Unit IV Exam—multiple-choice questions	
19	Unit IV Exam—free-response questions	
20	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit V: Institutions of National Government:**

**The Congress**

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the workings of the legislative process; the functions and powers of Congress; the relationship to other branches of government under the Constitution; and the change and evolution of congressional powers as a result of specific events in American history. **[SC6]**

SC6—The course provides instruction in Institutions of National Government.

**Materials**

Maps and charts of votes in Congress and party strength; charts on the legislative process and lobbyists.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Intro to Congress Article I—the Constitution	Woll pp. 331-360
2	Powers of ...	pp. 363-367
3	A Day in the Life	
4	Congressional Elections	pp. 367-373
5	The Party's On	pp. 392-394
6	Legislative Process	pp. 374-394
7	"I'm Just a Bill"	
8	An Amazing Team Activity	
9	Congressional Cha-Cha (the Politics of Legislation)	
10	Outside Reading and Portfolio	
11	Reading and Portfolio, Cont.	
12	Peer Review	
13	Portfolio Analysis	
14	"If It Ain't Broke" Worksheets—current Congress	
15	Current Congress	
16	Current Legislative Outlook	
17	Guest Speaker Panel—Congressional Staff	
18	Review	
19	Unit V Exam—multiple-choice questions	
20	Unit V Exam—free-response questions	
21	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit VI: Institutions of National Government:**

**Presidency, Bureaucracy, and Federal Budget**

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the functions and powers of the executive branch; its relationship to other branches of government under the Constitution; the change and evolution of the executive branch and the bureaucracy as a result of specific events in American history; the relationship between the national government and state and local government bureaucracies; and the role of the bureaucracy in formulating the federal budget.

**Materials**

Federalist 70; chart of major departments and responsibilities; data on federal budget spending and projected spending.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Presidential Powers	pp. 399-408
2	Organization of the Presidency	pp. 408-415
3	Will the Real President Please Stand Up?	pp. 415-422
4	PR	pp. 427-436
5	The Numbers Game	pp. 441-464
6	Federal Budget	
7	So You Think You Can Do a Better Job?	pp. 464
8	Organization of the Bureaucracy	pp. 471-483
9	Implementation/Regulation	pp. 483-506
10	Review	
11	Unit VI Exam—multiple-choice questions	
12	Unit VI Exam—free-response questions	
13	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit VII: Institutions of National Government:**

**The Judiciary**

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the workings of the judicial process; the functions and powers of the federal court system; the relationship of the Supreme Court to other branches of government under the Constitution; and the change and evolution of the judiciary as a result of specific events in American history. **[SC6]**

SC6—The course provides instruction in Institutions of National Government.

**Materials:**

review of major cases; chart on rulings of the court.

Day	Topic (Edwards et al.)	Assignment
1	Intro, Powers of the Judiciary	pp. 509-513
2	Structure of the Courts	pp. 513-518
3	Judicial Selection/Decision Making	pp. 518-526
4	History of the Court	pp. 533-538
5	The Rehnquist Court	
6	Summary and Review	
7	Unit VII Exam—multiple-choice questions	
8	Unit VII Exam—free-response questions	
9	Discussion/Justification of Exam	

**Unit VIII: Public Policy**

This unit consists of group presentations on several areas of public policy, including:

- Foreign and Defense Policy
- Health Care
- Economic Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Social Welfare Policy

**Content Goals**

Students should understand the major policy areas and debates in American government today. **[SC7]**

SC7—The course provides instruction in Public Policy and Public Policy Areas.

Groups prepare a written and oral presentation of the assigned policy area.

Presentations must include:

- Background information
- Major players in this policy arena
- Major policy initiatives
- Current issues in the policy area

### Writing Component

Students must answer numerous free-response questions with essays that demonstrate their ability to analyze and interpret the structure and actors within American government and politics. These essays prepare you for the essay section of the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam. Essays are given in class and in take-home format, and they are due approximately every one to two weeks. Some example assignments: **[SC13]**

SC13—The course requires students to answer analytical and interpretive free response questions on a frequent basis.

1. **On-Demand (Timed) Writing:** Using the following court cases as examples, explain the evolution of federalism in the United States. Be sure to explain the facts of each case as they apply to federalism.
  - *McCulloch v. Maryland*
  - *Gibbons v. Ogden*
  - *Brown v. Board of Education*
  - *Printz v. U.S., Mack v. U.S.*
2. **Transactive Writing:** Write a letter to your senator or representative urging support or opposition to a piece of federal legislation. A successful transactive piece must show a clear and timely purpose and be written in appropriate language for the intended audience.
3. **Book Review:** Each student must read one book on modern politics. Students with conservative ideologies must read a book written by a more liberal author. Students with liberal ideologies must read a book written by a more conservative author. Your book review should be approximately two pages in length and should include the following:
  - A brief summary of the book, including specific examples taken from the book
  - An analysis of the author's purpose in writing the book, including evidence used by the author to support his or her position
  - An evaluation of the validity of the arguments—are they logical? Are they convincing?
  - A recommendation of this book—to whom would you recommend this book and why?