

Course Syllabus for AP U.S. Government and Politics

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is for students who have demonstrated mastery of the content presented in their previous American History & Government courses. Students will build upon their prior knowledge and coursework in history and apply it, along with new skills/concepts to be taught, to this political science course in order to develop an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The College Board outlines the following units of required study for the course:

- **Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy (15 – 22% of AP Exam)**
- **Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government (25 – 36% of AP Exam)**
- **Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (13 – 18% of AP Exam)**
- **Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs (10 – 15% of AP Exam)**
- **Unit 5: Political Participation (20 – 27% of AP Exam)**

After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- describe and compare 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)
- explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
- interpret data (qualitative and quantitative) relevant to U.S. government and politics
- critically analyze foundational documents and Supreme Court cases as selected by College Board
- develop, defend, and critically analyze arguments

Current events, supplementary readings, individual research, audiovisual analysis, and performance-based assessments are integral parts of the course. Classroom assessments, developed to reflect the Advanced Placement exam, will be required. **Additional class meetings (on early release days beginning at 12:30) will be required to help prepare students for the AP exam.** Students will be expected to spend a considerable amount of time studying for the AP exam. **Students must take the AP exam to receive the AP designation on their transcript. This year's exam will be administered at school on the morning of Monday May 4, 2020.** Students are given 3 hours to complete the two parts of the exam (each portion counts as 50% of the overall score). Part 1 consists of 55 multiple choice questions (allotted time 80 minutes). Part II consists of four free response questions (allotted time 100 minutes).

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

- ❖ 45 % = TESTS and Quizzes (all unit tests will mirror the AP Exam – Multiple Choice & FRQ)
- ❖ 30 % = Projects, Supplemental Reading Assignments, Current Events & Binder Assignments,
- ❖ 15 % = Classwork that is collected for grading
- ❖ 10 % = Homework

**Any homework assignment not submitted in class when due will be given zero points. The only exception will be an excused absence from school (not just my class). In this case school policy will allow for extra time (see student handbook for details).

** All other assignments will be lowered by one letter grade for each day (regardless of an A/B schedule) late past the “final due date” that they are submitted. Again, absences will follow school policy as stated in the student handbook.

** Any assignment that a student copies/plagiarizes from another will be given a zero and may disqualify the student from the National Honor Society. Similarly, any student who allows another to copy/plagiarize will also be given a zero and may also jeopardize his/her status in the National Honor Society.

MANDATORY DAILY CLASS MATERIALS:

- ✓ Chromebook – You will be utilizing my Google Classroom (**code: w5z797**) and Weebly site: www.erinakesgopo.org both in class and at home on a daily basis
- ✓ Textbook:
 1. Wolfford, David. Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics, 2019 edition. AMSCO
 - **Purchase from teacher \$23.00 (?)**
 2. Ford, Bardes, Schmidt, and Shelley. American Government and Politics Today, 2017-2018 edition. Cengage Learning, 2018
 - Replacement cost \$150.00
- ✓ Supplemental:
 1. Woll, Peter. American Government Readings and Cases, 19th edition. Pearson Education, 2012
 - Replacement cost \$90.00
- ✓ Numerous current news reports and commentary from major newspapers, television, and Internet/podcasts will be utilized in daily coursework
- ✓ **Two** pens/pencils and 2 highlighters
- ✓ **Two** 3 ring binders (1.5” with 4 tabbed dividers: **One binder for each semester**),

Classroom Expectations/Requirements:

- ✚ All students must report to class on time ready to work
- ✚ All submitted work must be the student’s own in order to be graded (plagiarism/copied work will be given a zero and reported to honor society)
- ✚ All students are to participate in class and show RESPECT to all at all times
- ✚ Together we will make class enjoyable and productive

How to Get help in My Class:

- Email me for support – erinakeskelly@coventryschools.net
- Academic Lab support – Must obtain a pass from me in advance
- Before school – individual/small group support (please see me to make an appointment)
- After school – individual/small group support per request (please see me to make an appointment)
- **See me as soon as returning from an absence to get missed work and avoid falling behind**

Please sign and return this page to assure me that both students and a guardian have read and understand what is expected and what will be accomplished in class this year. I would also GREATLY APPRECIATE any feedback you can offer on student’s learning styles, preferences, past experiences, etc. Similarly, if you have any questions or suggestions for me, please feel free to write them in the comment section below and I will get back to you.

Guardian’s Signature:

Relationship (Parent/Grandparent, etc)

Guardian’s e-mail address

Student’s Name (**Printed**)

Student’s Signature

Guardian/Student Comments: