

Waltrip High School AP Government Course Syllabus

Course Description

AP Government is a fast-paced college-level course that focuses on the decision making of individuals, businesses, and the government. Students will also study a variety of economic theories and analyze their practical application in the real world. This 18-week course will cover government and politics in the United States. **Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.** This class will prepare you for college and potentially allow you to earn 6-10 university credits upon passing the AP exams. Extensive writing skills are not required; however, the ability to analyze texts are essential.

Course Access

The entire course will be offered through the HISD learning platform the H.U.B. This is a free web-based program that is available on the computer. Every single assignment and material required for the class will be available on this platform. Additionally, all due dates for assignments will be posted there. As a result, students are responsible for keeping up with all of their upcoming due dates and assignments. Students will access the synchronous component of their course in Microsoft TEAMS. All submissions unless otherwise stated will be made on the H.U.B. There is no excuse for a student failing to submit an assignment by the assigned deadline.

Course Objectives

1. Students will pass the AP Government test.
2. Students will prepare for their future educational and career goals by meeting COLLEGE-LEVEL EXPECTATIONS and practicing skills for life-long success.
3. Students will develop a sense of community and MAKE their senior year their best year of high school.

Textbook

- AMSCO United States Government and Politics (provided)
- Edwards and Wattenberg, Government in America (provided)

Required Materials List

- Writing utensil, multiple colors preferred.
- A notebook (separate from what the students will use for class notes)
- A fully-charged laptop daily

Course Grading

- Test/Performance Assessment = 35%
- Class Work = 30%
- Quizzes = 20%
- Homework = 15%

Late-Work Policy

Advanced Placement classes are intended to prepare students for collegiate academic environments. As a result, students will be expected to adhere to similar policies. In the event that a student fails to submit an assignment by the posted deadline they will be given a zero for the respective assignment. Afterwards, the student will have five business days (school days) to complete the assignment and submit it for evaluation. If the student successfully submits the assignment within the five-business day grace-period then they will be entitled to a maximum grade of seventy percent.

Classroom Expectations/Policies

- Students must focus on their LEARNING and not just their letter grade.
- Complete assignments in a timely manner, respect the due date.
- Absent students must collect and make up their own work
- The class should always be left in a better condition than it was arrived upon (if we get there)

How to begin class

- Upon entry, begin review of previous day’s work
- Have materials ready to begin class

Contacting Mr. Saada: amir.saada@houstonisd.org

Office Hours: Monday: 3:25pm to 4:10pm
Tuesday to Friday: 1:50 pm to 2:35pm

Email is the best way to get a hold of me as responses will be prompt

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____ *Date* _____

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____ *Date* _____

AP Government Course Outline

Unit	Week	Monday	Tuesday/Wednesday	Thursday/Friday
1	1	Attitudes about Gov't	Political Ideology	Public Opinion
1	2	Ideologies of Parties	Ideology and Policy Making	Economic and Social Policy
2	3	Unit 1 Review	Unit 1 Exam	Voting Rights
2	4	Voter Turnout	Political Parties	How and Why Parties Change
2	5	3 rd Parties	Interest Group Project	Interest Group Project
2	6	Groups Influence Policy	Electing a President	Congressional Elections and Campaigns
2	7	Campaign Finance	The Media	Changing Media
3	8	Ideals of Democracy	Types of Democracy	Government Power vs. Individual Rights
3	9	AOC to USC	Principles of Government and Federalism	Federalism in Action
4	10	Unit 2 & 3 Review	Unit 2 & 3 Exam	Intro to Congress
4	11	Functions and Powers of Congress	Congressional Behavior	Roles and Powers of the President
4	12	Expansion of POTUS Power	The Judicial Branch	The Court in Action
4	13	Checks and Balances	The Bureaucracy Rule-Making Authority	Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable
4	14	Unit 4 Review	Unit 1-4 MC Exam	Unit 4 FRQ Exam
5	15	Bill of Rights	Religion, Speech, and Press	Bear Arms and Public Safety
5	16	Selective Incorporation	Due Process	Equal Protection and Social Movements

5	17	Minority Rights and Affirmative Action	Unit 5 Review	Unit 5 Exam
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