

AP US Government and Politics

		Description of Average Weekly Outside Requirements	
Main Topics (What main ideas/concepts will be covered?): Types of Governments Political Parties, Interest Groups, and the Mass Media Campaigning and Elections Branches of Government Civil Rights and Liberties Public Policy	Rationale (Why should a student take this course?) Through this course, students understand the process of the creation of the US Government. Students will examine the US Constitution, the powers that exist in the branches of government, and the rights that citizens are guaranteed.	Reading (Text, document, etc): Students will read from the textbook, approximately 15-20 pages at a time, between 3 and 4 times a week. Students are responsible for short readings- 1 to 3 pages- throughout the semester to supplement the text. Students are required to read an accompanying reader both inside and outside of the classroom.	Written (Terms, questions, outlines, free response, etc): Students will answer chapter questions- approximately 15 per week, as they complete their required reading. Students will write approximately 20 free response questions in the semester...these are short answer-type questions that require students to analyze a situation and develop actions to correct the situation.
Grade Composition (How are grades determined?): 30% Multiple Choice Tests 30% Free Response Tests 20% Notebook Check (Reading Questions) 20% Work Ethic (Quizzes, etc)	Skill Development (What skills are developed in this course and how?) Analysis- students will be given situations in which they will be required to understand the powers and restrictions placed on the US Government. Citizenship- students will begin to understand how the US Government works. They will form opinions about government intervention in society, and have a greater understanding of why and how our government changes.	Sample Textbook Excerpt: "In a democracy, the ability of the people to freely express their opinions is fundamental. Americans can express their opinions in many ways. They can write letters to newspapers. They can organize politically. They can vote. They can respond to opinion polls, including the exit polls discussed in the previous chapter. Public opinion clearly plays an important role in our political system, just as it does in any democracy. President George W. Bush found out how important public opinion was when he announced that his administration was going to try terrorist suspects in military tribunals where the defendants would have few rights. Public opinion was so negative that bush felt forced to announce new rules for the tribunals that gave defendants more rights. In contrast, Bush's war on terrorism received widespread support from Americans. This support bolstered the Bush administration's authority during a time in crisis. Indeed, Bush's approval ratings of slightly over 90% were the highest ever recorded in the history of the Gallup poll..."	
Required Skills (What skills are necessary to be successful in this course?) Reading/Comprehension Work Ethic- Semester Course Open Mind- New Concepts Basic Writing- Analytical			