

College Board (Pages 1-8 for 2019-20)

The course is designed to be equivalent to a one semester introductory college course. There is no prescribed sequence of study or course length.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisite course for AP US Government and Politics. However, students should be able to read a college level textbook, write grammatically correct using complete sentences, and **THINK FOR THEMSELVES!!**.

Course Overview

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

Course Content

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course is organized around five units, which focus on major topics in U.S. government and politics. The units are:

- Foundations of American Democracy
- Interaction among Branches of Government
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs; and
- Political Participation

Foundational documents and Supreme Court cases

These documents are an integral part of the course and necessary for students to understand the philosophical underpinnings, significant legal precedents, and political values of the U.S. political system and may serve as the focus of AP Exam questions. The course requires study of:

- 9 foundational documents, including the U.S. Constitution
- 15 landmark Supreme Court cases

***YOU MUST KNOW THESE IN ORDER TO HAVE A CHANCE AT PASSING THE COLLEGE BOARD EXAM!!**

Civics Project

The required project adds a civic component to the course, engaging students in exploring how they can affect, and are affected by, government and politics throughout their lives. The project might have students collect data on a teacher-approved political science topic, participate in a community service activity, or observe and report on the policymaking process of a governing body. Students should plan a presentation that relates their experiences or findings to what they are learning in the course.

Disciplinary Practices

Practice 1: Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context

Practice 2: Apply Supreme Court decisions

Practice 3: Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics

Practice 4: Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources

Practice 5: Develop an argument in essay format

The Exam

The AP United States Government and Politics Exam is 3 hours long.

Section I: Multiple Choice | 55 Questions | 80 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

Section II: Free Response | 4 Questions | 100 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

A Note from the teacher, who wants your senior year to be the best.....

Your senior year will be incredibly BUSY!! Anything that you can do ahead of time this summer to prepare is a good idea. Spend time researching this summer which college applications require essays and get those essays written. Find out what you will need in regards to teacher recommendations, then prepare an information sheet on your activities and have those ready to give your teachers the first week of school well before deadlines. See Mrs. Mesick in the Career Center for scholarship applications and check on important due dates for seniors.

For AP Government, you have an assignment **due the first day of class worth 128 points!!** Completing this assignment over the summer will make your first week of class much easier as well as prepare study aids for the course. The summer assignment is purposefully focused on **VOCABULARY WORDS** you are required to make flash cards, in your own writing, of terms and information to prepare as study aids to use during the course. I will give you credit for your time in writing these (do not copy and paste) which will help your Marking Period 1 get off to a great start. Each note card must have the term on the front and the definition/details on the back. It is essential that you familiarize yourself with the Government Vocabulary, Documents, and Supreme Court Cases which will make your life easier during the spring when you are attempting to study for AP EXAMS and your other courses, finish college applications and apply for scholarships as well as trying to enjoy Homecoming or Prom. I am well aware that at times you will feel overwhelmed during your senior year at LHS. Sometimes it will be a result of AP Government, and most of the time it will be a result of everything you have going on in LIFE but we (Liberty faculty and staff) are here to help you! **These terms, cases, and documents are the core knowledge for this course. Learn them with purpose!!**

- I. Describe each of the REQUIRED documents. AKA 1) Who wrote it, 2) When, 3) What was discussed, 4) Why do we still care today, and 5) a short QUOTE from each of the following Foundational Documents.

(Note Cards) 9 Points

1. Federalist No. 10
2. Brutus No. 1
3. The Declaration of Independence
4. The Articles of Confederation
5. The US Constitution and Bill of Rights
6. Federalist No. 51
7. Letter from a Birmingham Jail (MLK)
8. Federalist No. 70
9. Federalist No. 78

- II. Explain the ruling for each of the following REQUIRED Supreme Court cases. 1) Identify the amendment(s) and/or constitutional clause associated with each case, 2) the Constitutional question, and the Court's final ruling.

(Note Cards) 15 Points

1. *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
2. *United States v. Lopez* (1995)
3. *Engel v. Vitale* (1962)
4. *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972)
5. *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969)
6. *New York Times v. United States* (1971)
7. *Schenck v. United States* (1919)
8. *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
9. *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
10. *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010)
11. *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
12. *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010)
13. *Baker v. Carr* (1961)
14. *Shaw v. Reno* (1993)
15. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

- III. In order to better follow lecture and participate in class discussion (which is part of your grade), it is highly recommended that you learn the list of **Government vocab and amendments (attached).**
(Note Cards) 104Points

Government Vocab:

178 Points

1. Amicus curiae brief: "friend of the court" brief filed by an interest group to influence a Supreme Court decision.
2. Appellate jurisdiction: authority of a court to hear an appeal from a lower court.
3. Balancing the ticket: occurs when a presidential nominee chooses a vice presidential running mate who has different qualities in order to attract more votes for the ticket.
4. Blanket primary: election to choose candidates that is open to independents and that allows voters to choose candidates from all the parties.
5. Block grant: money granted by the federal government to the states for a broad purpose (e.g., transportation) rather than for a narrow purpose (e.g., school lunch program).
6. Bureaucratic Discretion: bureaucrats' use of their own judgement in interpreting and carrying out the laws of Congress. (e.g., EPA and environmental policy, Department of Education and education policy)
7. "Bully Pulpit": comes from Teddy Roosevelt's reference to the White House as a "bully pulpit" meaning that he could use it as a platform to promote his agenda. President uses his bully pulpit as a means of communicating with the American people through the media coverage of presidential events.
8. Categorical grant: money granted by the federal government to the states for a narrow purpose (e.g., school lunch program) rather than for a broad purpose (e.g., transportation).
9. Checks and balances: system in which each branch of government can limit the power of the other two branches, e.g., presidential veto of a congressional law.
10. Clear and present danger doctrine: judicial interpretation of the First Amendment that government may not ban speech unless such speech poses an imminent threat to society.
11. Closed primary: party election to choose candidates that is closed to independents. Voter may not cross party lines.
12. Cloture: Senate motion to end a filibuster that requires a 3/5 vote.
13. Commerce clause: gives Congress the power to regulate commerce among the states, with foreign nations, and among Indian tribes. Granted through Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
14. Conference committee: works out a compromise between differing House-Senate versions of a bill.
15. Cooperative federalism: system in which both federal government and state governments cooperate in solving problems.
16. Direct election: election of an official directly by the people rather than by an intermediary group such as the Electoral College.
17. Primary: election in which the people choose candidates to be on the general election ballot.
18. Divided government: government in which one party controls the presidency while another party controls the Congress.

19. Elastic clause: states that Congress can exercise those powers that are “necessary and proper” for carrying out the enumerated powers, e.g., establishment of the first Bank of the United States.
20. The Electoral College: consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Is a body of electors established by the United States Constitution, constituted every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president of the United States
21. Elite theory: theory that upper class elites exercise great influence over public policy.
22. Entitlements: federal benefit payments to which recipients have a legal right, e.g., Social Security. Also known as uncontrollables.
23. Establishment clause: provision of the First Amendment that prohibits Congress from establishing an official state religion. This is the basis for Separation of Church and State.
24. Exclusionary rule: Supreme Court guideline that excludes the use of illegally obtained evidence in a criminal trial.
25. Executive agreement: an agreement between the President and another head of state that, unlike a treaty, does not require Senate consent.
26. Executive order: presidential rule or regulation that has the force of law.
27. Factions: term used by Madison to denote what we now call interest groups.
28. Federalism: constitutional sharing of power between a central government and state governments.
29. Federalist papers: group of 85 essays written by Madison, Hamilton, and Jay for the purpose of persuading the people of NY and then others to adopt the Constitution.
30. Filibuster: nonstop Senate debate that prevents a bill from coming to a vote.
31. Franking privilege: allows members of Congress to send mail postage free.
32. Free-exercise clause: the First Amendment states that the government “shall make no law ... prohibiting the free exercise of religion.” Although the text sounds absolute, “no law” does not always mean “no law.” The Supreme Court has had to place some limits on the freedom to practice religion.
33. Gender gap: difference in voting patterns for men and women, particularly in the greater tendency of the latter to vote for Democratic presidential candidates.
34. General election: election in which the officeholders are chosen. Contrast with a primary election, in which only the candidates are chosen.
35. Gerrymandering: redrawing district lines to favor one party at the expense of the other.
36. Horse race: the tendency of the media to report on an election campaign as if it were a horse race, i.e., who is ahead, who is behind, who is gaining ground.
37. Impeachment: House action that formally charges an official with wrongdoing. Conviction and Removal requires 2/3 vote from the Senate.
38. Impoundment: refusal of a President to spend money that has been appropriated by Congress.
39. Incorporation: applying the Bill of Rights to the states. A “**total incorporation**” view is that the states must obey all provisions of the Bill of Rights because of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. A “**selective incorporation**” view is that the Bill of Rights is to be applied to the states in a more gradual manner on a case by case basis.

40. Incumbent: an officeholder who is seeking re-election.
41. Independent: voter not registered with a political party but tend to vote for candidates of one particular party.
42. Iron triangle: an informal association of federal agency, congressional committee, and interest group that is said to have heavy influence over policy making.
43. Johnson Amendment: a provision in the U.S. tax code, since 1954, that prohibits all 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates.
44. Judicial activism: philosophy that the courts should take an active role in solving problems.
Ex. Roe v. Wade and abortion
45. Judicial restraint: philosophy that the courts should defer to elected lawmakers in setting policy, and should instead focus on interpreting law rather than making law.
Ex. Plessy v. Ferguson
46. Judicial review: power of the courts to review the constitutionality of laws or government actions. Comes from Marbury v. Madison ruling.
47. Keynesian Economics: the belief the government must manage the economy by spending more money when in a recession and cutting spending when there is inflation.
48. Legislative veto: process in which Congress overturned rules and regulations proposed by executive branch agencies. Struck down in 1983.
49. Line item veto: power of most governors (and President Clinton for only a few years) to delete or reduce funding in a bill on a line by line basis. Declared unconstitutional by Supreme Court.
50. Lobbying: attempting to influence policy makers.
51. Mandates: requirements imposed by the national government upon the states. Some are **unfunded mandates**, i.e., they are imposed by the national government, but lack funding.
52. Miranda Rights: warnings that must be read to suspects prior to questioning if responses are to be used in a criminal trial. Suspects must be advised that they have the rights of silence and counsel.
53. Open primary: election to choose candidates that is open to independents, and in which voters may choose candidates from any one party.
54. Original jurisdiction: authority of a court to first hear a case.
55. Participatory democracy: is a model of democracy in which citizens have the power to make policy decisions.
56. Party identification: a sense of affiliation that a person has with a particular political party.
57. Pluralism: theory that policy making is the result of interest group competition.
58. Pluralistic democracy: is the view that politics and decision making are located mostly in the framework of government, but that many non-governmental groups use their resources to exert influence.
59. Plurality elections: such as those for Congress are won by the person with the most votes, regardless if he/she has a majority.
60. Plurality: more votes than anyone else, but less than half, e.g., Clinton won a plurality (43%) of popular votes in 1992, but not a majority.
61. Political Action Committee (PAC): an interest group that raises funds and donates to election campaigns.

AP US Government & Politics Summer Assignment 2019-20 (Due First Day of Class)

Questions? Please email Mr. Patterson cpatterson@fcps1.org

62. Political culture: the widely shared beliefs, values, and norms that citizens share about their government.
63. Political socialization: process in which one acquires his/her political beliefs.
64. Prior restraint: When a court stops expression before it is made, e.g., prohibiting a demonstration by a radical group because the assembly is likely to become violent. Presumed to be unconstitutional.
65. Realigning (critical) election: an election in which there is a long term change in party alignment, e.g., 1932.
66. Redistricting: redrawing of congressional district boundaries by the party in power of the state legislature.
67. Reserved powers: powers held by the states through the 10th Amendment. Any power not granted to the US government is reserved for the states.
68. Rule of four: the Supreme Court will hear a case if four Justices agree to do so.
69. Rules Committee: the “traffic cop” of the House that sets the legislative calendar and issues rules for debate on a bill.
70. Senatorial courtesy: tradition in which the President consults with the Senators within a state in which an appointment is to be made.
71. Shay’s Rebellion: 1786 Revolt by Massachusetts farmers seeking relief from debt and foreclosure that was a factor in the calling of the Constitutional Convention.
72. Single member district system: system in which the people elect one representative per district. With a winner-take-all rule, this system strengthens the two major parties and weakens minor parties.
73. Standing committees: the permanent Congressional Committees that handle legislation.
74. Super PAC: a type of independent political action committee which may raise unlimited sums of money from corporations, unions, and individuals but is not permitted to contribute to or coordinate directly with parties or candidates. Developed out of the Citizens United v. FEC ruling.
75. Ways and Means Committee: House committee that handles tax bills
76. Winner-take-all: is a term used to describe single member district and at large election systems that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minority groups.
77. Writ of Habeas Corpus: is recourse in law whereby a person can report an unlawful detention or imprisonment before a court, usually through a prison official.
78. Writ of Certiorari: is a writ seeking judicial review that is issued by a higher court. Ex. Supreme Court.

Amendments - write on notecards

_____ /27 Points

****You are not expected to respond to these asterisks, however, I want you to start thinking about what is being asked.**

1st Rights to Religion, Assembly, Press, Petition, and Speech (RAPPS)

2nd Right to Bear Arms

3rd Quartering of Soldiers

4th Search and Seizure

5th Grand Jury, Double Jeopardy, Self-Incrimination, Due Process

6th Rights of Accused in Criminal Prosecutions: Rights to Timely Trial, to Confront Opposing Witnesses and to Counsel

7th Jury Trial By Peers

8th Protections against Excessive Bail, Cruel and Unusual Punishment

9th Peoples Non-Enumerated Rights

10th Rights Reserved to States

****Amendments 1-10 are known as the Bill of Rights. Why were they added to the US Constitution during the ratification Process?**

11th Suits Against a State

12th Election of President and Vice-President

****Amendments 11-12 address early flaws with the constitution. Why were these topics a problem?**

13th Abolition of Slavery and Involuntary Servitude

14th Protects rights against state infringements, defines citizenship, prohibits states from interfering with privileges and immunities, requires **due process** and **equal protection**, punishes states for denying vote, and disqualifies Confederate officials and debts

****What does due process and equal protection actually mean??**

15th Voting Rights for African American Males

****Amendments 13-14 are known as the Civil War Amendments. Do you understand why?**

16th Federal Income Tax

****When did you first start working for an hourly wage, was it at age 16?**

17th Popular Election of Senators

****How were Senators selected before this amendment?**

18th Prohibition

****Easy way to remember prohibition amendments: 18 year olds cannot drink, 21 year olds can.**

19th Women's Right to Vote

****Any easy way to remember amendments 15, 19, 23, 24, & 26 is by recognizing that they are all connected to suffrage for a unique group of people.**

20th Commencement of Presidential Term on January 20 and Congress on January 3.

****Any easy way to remember amendments 12, 20, 22, and 25 is by associating all of them with the Executive Branch. When did the government start a new term prior to this amendment? Why?**

21st Repeal of 18th Amendment (Prohibition)

22nd Two-Term Limitation on President

****This exist because Washington served two terms and FDR was elected to four terms. Was this a concern before FDR? Why?**

23rd District of Columbia Presidential Vote

****Can they vote for anything else in the government?**

24th Abolition of Poll Tax Requirement in Federal Elections

25th Presidential Vacancy, Disability and Inability

26th Right to Vote at Age 18

*There is debate about lowering voting age to 16? Do you think you were prepared to vote at the age of 16?

27th Congressional Compensation is deferred until the next session of Congress

**** I guess the question should be why is Congress giving themselves a raise to start with??**