

American Government AP

Class Syllabus 2012-2013

Email: rcrawford@nova.edu**Room:** 213**Extra Help:** Monday and Thursday 3:15-4:00

***Government** is the social science that studies the processes, principles, and structure of political institutions and the exercise of authority and administration of public policy in a political unit.*

INTRODUCTION



The AP United States Government and Politics course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics as well as with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. By providing students with an understanding of the purpose of government, how it works, and the responsibilities of citizens living in a

democratic society, this course seeks to create socially and politically informed students who possess the ability to make future decisions that will ensure the survival of the ideals that America was founded upon.

Students successfully completing this course will:

- **Recognize** important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics
- **Understand** the components of political behavior, the principles used to justify government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures.
- **Analyze** and **Interpret** basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats)
- **Critically Evaluate** relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum

Our final destination will be reached on the morning of **Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 8:00am**, when each of you will sit down fully prepared for the AP Examination in American Government and Politics!

eTEXT: **Government by the People, 24th ed.** David Magleby. Longman, 20011.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Your responsibilities in this course will be as follows:

- **Be Prompt:** Attend class regularly, be on time, and be in your seat when the bell rings, notebook and warmup work ready to go.
- **Be Prepared:** Keep up with assignments, bring your 3-ring binder and pencil/pen to class every day, and expect to participate!
- **Be Productive:** Use your time wisely, try not to procrastinate, and take an active role each and every class period
- **Be Polite:** Respect the rights and opinions of others in the class, keep an open mind, and follow class procedures and school rules.

Class rules and procedures will be covered in more detail in class during the first week of attendance.

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ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Grading of any essays and written assignments will be done via reference to the enclosed rubric. Please review it and if you have any questions bring them to my attention. Tests will be administered on a regular basis and will measure your ability to recall and apply the information we have covered.

The breakdown of your term and final grades is as follows:

Formative assessments: 35%

Summative assessments: 65 %

Formative assessments are ongoing, frequent practice intended to be checkpoints that will be used to guide instruction. You should view these as foundation knowledge builders that will enable you to achieve and demonstrate mastery of content. As such, these assessments can be practiced until mastery is attained (see below). Formative assessments are planned in such a way as to guarantee completion and review PRIOR to the summative assessment. These assessments will be graded and evaluated, but the scores might not be included in the gradebook. If there is a formative assessment that will be counted toward your grade I will tell about it before the actual assessment. This includes any research papers, essays or writing assignments.

Summative assessments include chapter, quarterly and term multiple choice/essay format exams. These assessments are intended to determine your level of mastery of the content.

There will be opportunities to improve your performance on any formative assessment. Prior to such "reassessment" the student will have to meet with the instructor to review any material that was not fully understood. The reassessment will be in a format different from the original assessment (for example, an essay instead of the original multiple choice quiz). The purpose of these reassessments is to give the student the chance to demonstrate understanding of the material – not necessarily to boost a grade. If the reassessment is a lower grade than the original grade, the original grade will stand and further review and reassessment will be required. Please note, **there will be none of those accommodations made on a summative assessment.**

In addition to the above described assessments, a **comprehensive final exam** will be administered at the close of the semester.

You must complete all assignments. Any late assignment will be marked ***NS (Not Submitted)*** in the grade book. You will have 24 hours to hand in a late assignment without penalty. After 24 hours, the maximum grade you can earn on an assessment is 50%. Formative assessments should be completed prior to the summative assessment. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in the semester grade being changed to an ***I (Incomplete)***. Please note that the Incomplete will revert to an irretrievable *F* one week after the close of the semester.

You are responsible for any missed material! Make up tests need to be completed on the day the student returns to class. This is in line with the policy as stated in the student handbook.

Notebooks will be used on a daily basis. Your notebook is your source of information for this course, and your map for success! If you are absent, you will be expected to consult another student, Blackboard, or Crawfordsworld.com to bring your map up to date.

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NETIQUETTE

Proper manners are as important online as they are offline. As a component of this course will take place online, please follow these simple Netiquette guidelines for a fun and safe online experience!

- The student is expected to know and to follow the school guidelines and policies as they have been stated in the Upper School Student Handbook.
- Netiquette is a term derived from the words "Internet Etiquette" or "Network Etiquette" which describes the use of proper manners and behavior online. Internet Etiquette should be used in all areas of electronic means including email, chatting, blogging, forums, message boards, and so on. It is important to treat others with dignity and respect both on and offline. Although the rules may vary depending on the specific forum used, the following Netiquette guidelines (© [Jace Shoemaker-Galloway](#)) will offer some *basic* Internet tips and suggestions to provide a pleasant and safe online experience:
 1. Use Computer Courtesy: Whether a person is sending an email, chatting in a chat room or speaking in a forum, it is important to be courteous and respectful of others online. Always remember the **Golden Rule!**
 2. Use Emoticons: When communicating online, it can be difficult to gauge a writer's emotion. Unless a web camera or microphone is used, the writer's expression or emotion is difficult to determine. By using emoticons, the writer's proper emotion will be conveyed to the reader.
 3. Be Brief Online: It is important to keep messages short, especially when writing an email or typing in a chat room. **Proper sentence structure and correct grammatical rules are required when conversing via email or in chat rooms or through discussion threads!!!**
 4. DON'T SHOUT: No matter what forum, writing in all capital letters is considered SHOUTING and is considered very rude. A word or two in caps is fine, but shouting is not recommended.
 5. Pay Attention to Language Issues: Improper, inappropriate or bad language may get a participant kicked out or permanently banned from a forum or group.
 6. Think Before Posting: It is important to note, what is posted online today, may come back and haunt the writer tomorrow.
 7. Keep Personal Information Private: Posting private and personal information in the wrong location can have serious consequences.
- Read more: http://internet.suite101.com/article.cfm/netiquette_guidelines#ixzz0FnAhOjLJ&B

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

University School places a premium on honesty in academia. All students must do their own work. Copying of any form – including lack of citations - on any assignment, including tests, papers, or projects, is a violation of school rules and is counter to your growth as a student and person. Any student caught cheating could receive a zero for that assignment and may be subject to school disciplinary action.

AP American Government is not a "college prep" course; it is a college class with college level expectations for behavior, participation, and effort.

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TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>TEST*</u>
1	Political Culture (15% of the AP Exam) Individual citizens hold a variety of beliefs about their government, its leaders, and the U.S. political system in general; taken together, these beliefs form the foundation of U.S. political culture. It is important for students to understand how these beliefs are formed, how they evolve, and the processes by which they are transmitted.	1, 4	9/7
2	The Constitution and Federalism (10% of the AP Exam) The study of modern politics in the United States requires students to examine the kind of government established by the Constitution, paying particular attention to federalism, the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the process of amendments.	2, 3	9/24
3	Article I: Congress (20% of the AP Exam) Students should understand that Congress is a collection of individual representatives who are expected to serve the interests of their constituents, their personal political views, and the demands of party leaders, and that in serving those interests, members of necessity rely on investigating, negotiating, and compromise. Students should examine the significance of the US party system, and the effects they have on the political process. A study of electoral systems on the will help students understand the nature of voting behavior. Students must consider the political roles played by a variety of lobbying and interest groups.	7, 9, 11	10/12
4	Article II: The President (20% of the AP Exam) Students should understand that the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches, the distinguishing feature of the political system in the United States, means that the president must compete with Congress to set policy. Presidential power, though still sharply limited, has grown from its constitutional origins,. Students should recognize the increased importance of foreign affairs. and understand the role of the media and public expectations in the political system.	9, 12, 13	11/2
5	Article III: The Courts, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (25% of the AP Exam) An understanding of United States politics includes the study of the development of individual rights and liberties. Basic to this study is an analysis of the workings of the United States Supreme Court and familiarity with its most significant decisions. Students should examine judicial interpretations of various civil rights and liberties such as freedom of speech, assembly, and expression; the rights of the accused; and the rights of minority groups and women.	14, 15, 16	11/19
6	Public Policy (10% of the AP Exam) Public policy is the result of interactions and dynamics among actors, interests, institutions, and processes. Students should be familiar with the formation of policy agendas, the enactment of public policies by Congress and the president, and the implementation and interpretation of policies by the bureaucracy and the courts.	17 - 20	12/3