



NNPS Curriculum

AP US Government & Politics

Advanced Placement Level

Grade 12

Pacing Guide

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Course Description for AP US Government & Politics

This course will focus on the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States Politics. Students will gain an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States both by studying the general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and by analyzing specific examples. Students successfully completing this course will

- know 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)
- be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U. S. government and politics.

Through their study of United States government, students will practice the intellectual skills required for responsible citizenship and effective participation in the civic life of an increasingly diverse democratic society.

(Adapted from the following documents: [Government and Politics Course Description](#), College Board and [History and Social Sciences Standards of Learning: Virginia and United States Government](#), VDOE)

Pacing Guide

Quarter 1		
Standards	Topics and/or Strands (i.e. Unit Big Ideas)	Time Estimate
AP Outline Topic 1	<p><u>Unit 1: Constitutional Underpinnings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution • Separation of powers • Federalism • Theories of democratic government 	5 weeks 12 block lessons
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
AP Outline Topic 2	<p><u>Unit 2: Political Beliefs and Behaviors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders • Processes by which citizens learn about politics • Nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion • Ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life • Variety of factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of their political beliefs and behaviors 	2 weeks 5 block lessons
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
Quarter 2		
Standards	Topics and/or Strands (i.e. Unit Big Ideas)	Time Estimate
AP Outline Topic 3	<p><u>Unit 3: Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political parties and elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ functions ▫ organizations ▫ development ▫ effects on the process ▫ election laws and systems • Interest groups, including political action committees (PACs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ range of interests represented ▫ activities of interest groups ▫ effects of interest groups on the political process • Unique characteristics and roles of PACs in the political process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ mass media 	3 weeks 7 block lessons

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ functions and structures of the media ▫ impact of media on politics 	
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
AP Outline Topic 4	<p><u>Unit 4: Institutions of National Government: The Congress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major formal and informal institutional arrangements of powers • Relationships between Congress and the presidency, bureaucracy, and federal Courts institutions and varying balances of power • Linkages between Congress and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ public opinion and voters ▫ interest groups ▫ political parties ▫ media ▫ subnational governments 	4 weeks 10 block lessons
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
Review and Administer Semester Exam		1 week 2 block periods including exam day
Quarter 3		
Standards	Topics and/or Strands (i.e. Unit Big Ideas)	Time Estimate
AP Outline Topic 4	<p><u>Unit 4: Institutions of National Government (cont.): The Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major formal and informal institutional arrangements of powers • Relationships between these institutions and varying balances of power • Linkages between these institutions and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ public opinion and voters ▫ interest groups ▫ political parties ▫ media ▫ subnational governments 	4 weeks 10 block lessons
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
AP Outline Topic 5	<p><u>Unit 5: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation • Knowledge of substantive rights and liberties • Impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on the constitutional development of rights and liberties 	3.5 weeks 8 block lessons

Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 3 block lessons
Quarter 4		
Standards	Topics and/or Strands (i.e. Unit Big Ideas)	Time Estimate
AP Outline Topic 6	<u>Unit 6: Public Policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy-making in a federal system • Formation of policy agendas • The role of institutions in the enactment of policy • The role of the bureaucracy and the courts in policy implementation and interpretation • Linkages between policy processes and the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ political institutions and federalism ▫ political parties ▫ interest groups ▫ public opinion ▫ elections 	2 weeks 5 block lessons Note: Adjust time based on scheduled date for AP test and need for review
Enrichment, Review, Assessment		1 week 2 block lessons
Review and Administer <u>AP Test</u>		1.5 weeks 3 blocks Note: Adjust time based on scheduled date for AP test and need for review
SOL GOVT.8a-c	<u>Unit 7: State and Local Government</u>	2 to 3 weeks 5 to 7 block lessons (based on AP test date)
Review & Assessment		1 block lesson
Review & Administer <u>Semester Exam</u>		1 week 2 block periods including exam day