

Arlington High School 2016-2017
Social Studies Department
AP U.S. Government and Politics
Manthe
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Course Description

AP Government and Politics is a college level course that explores the political theory and everyday practice that direct the daily operation of the U.S. government and shape our public policies. It will also provide the students with 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 analysis of specific examples. The express purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the AP Exam for U.S. Government and Politics.

AP Government and Politics is taught on a college level and it requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every class. The course objectives go well above a basic analysis of how the U.S. government works. Students will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, as well a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

Current Events

One of the most effective ways to learn about politics and make more relevant the concepts we discuss in class is to pay attention to current political events. Therefore, it is expected that you will read a major news source. These include magazines such as U.S News and World Report; a politically oriented journal such as Foreign Policy; newspapers from major U.S. cities; news websites such as Politico.com; or news and other politically oriented programs on television or the Internet. The more you pay attention to current events and how they relate to what you have learned, the more effective you will be during class discussions. This will also help you to provide examples in your written work.

Content Standards

This college-level United States Government and Politics course is written to the content standards outlined by the College Board's *United States Government and Politics Course Requirements*.

Materials

Each student will need a 2" three-ring binder, notebook paper and a black or blue ink pen. These materials along with your textbook will be required everyday.

Homework is due at the beginning of class. You will have several tests and quizzes each 9 weeks. All tests and quizzes are announced ahead of time. Class will begin with bell work each day. The bell work will be graded every Friday. Current Events will be due by Friday.

The grading scale will be as follows:

93-100	A
85-92	B
75-84	C
70-74	D

Your attendance is both required and needed, as we will be having a large amount of discussion. Please refer to the Student Handbook for a copy of the ACS attendance policy.