

AP US Government and Politics

COURSE DESCRIPTION: AP US Government and Politics presents an analytic perspective on American politics. The course introduces students to the ideals, institutions, and processes that direct the daily operations of our government and shapes our public policies. Students will use a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations to interpret and analyze the political landscape to develop a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of our system of government.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ♦ Explain the American system of government and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses
- ♦ Read, understand, and interpret primary source documents and contemporary news analyses related to American government and public policy
- ♦ Analyze and interpret data and other relevant information to US government and politics
- ♦ Write analytical and interpretive essays demonstrating an understanding of the ideals, institutions and processes of the American political system

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy*, 14/E
Edwards, Wattenberg, & Lineberry | ©2009 | Longman

Choices: An American Government Reader, 1/E
KCDL | ©2009 | Custom Publishing by Pearson

COURSE OUTLINE:

UNIT I: Constitutional Foundations

Section 1- Introduction to American Political Culture
Section 2- The Constitution
Section 3- Federalism

UNIT II: Civil Liberties and Rights

Section 1- Civil Liberties
Section 2- Civil Rights

UNIT III: People and Politics

Section 1- Public Opinion
Section 2- Media
Section 3- Political Parties
Section 4- Campaigns and Elections
Section 5- Interest Groups

UNIT IV: The Policymakers

Section 1- Congress
Section 2- The Presidency
Section 3- The Federal Bureaucracy
Section 4- The Federal Courts



UNIT V: Public Policy

Section 1- Economic Policy

Section 2- Domestic and Social Policy

Section 3- Foreign and Defense Policy

UNIT VI: The AP US Government and Politics Exam

Section 1- Preparing for the Exam

Section 2- The Final Exam