

AP U.S. Government  
Ms. Enriquez  
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**COURSE LENGTH:** One semester

**NUMBER OF UNITS:** 5

**GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:** AP Government is a college level introductory course on United States Government and Politics, designed for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. While the content of general US government courses varies from college to college, this course will focus on the Constitution; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; the Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and the federal courts; public policy; and civil rights and liberties. Course material will be taught through a variety of means including: lecture and note taking, class discussion, intensive reading, group and individual projects, and test and short answer practice.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** These are the general goals:

1. Prepare students for the responsibilities of citizenship including voting and positive participation in the local community
2. Prepare students for the AP Government exam
3. Analyze the history and interpretations of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as other foundational documents.
4. Examine the roles, powers, and relationships between formal and informal institutions in the United States
5. Recognize typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
6. Know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics

**REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS:** Bring pencil or pen, and a notebook. One large spiral notebook works best, as well as some sort of folder to keep all handouts and /or old work. You will be issued a textbook to take home, and a class set will be available at school. You do not need to bring your textbook to school. Participation and attendance are extremely important. Students are responsible for turning in all work on time. No late work will be accepted unless work is missed due to an excused absence or prior arrangements are made with the instructor. **Missed work, including tests, must be made up promptly for credit. There will be daily quizzes which make up the participation grade for each unit.**

**TEXTBOOK:** American Government Institutions and Policies. Wilson, Dilulio, and Bose et al. AP Edition.

**OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES:** Supplemental selected readings including Supreme Court cases, news articles, and primary source documents.

**Discipline and Tardy/Absences:**

I have a progressive Discipline Policy that is posted. Please follow all rules. Here are the rules I feel strongly about:

1. Respect other people's right to learn.
2. Bring all needed materials to class, and be on time.
3. Laugh with anyone, but at no one!

4. Participate in daily activities.

**Tardies/Absences:**

It is extremely important that all students are in class, on time, and ready to work. I will always be at my door welcoming the class in. Occasionally, tardies and absences occur. **DO NOT MAKE A HABIT OF BEING LATE. DO NOT GET THE TERRIBLE CONTAGIOUS DISEASE OF SENIORITIS!!!**

I will follow the citizenship rules for students who do make a habit of being late. Any unexcused, or habitually excused absences will detrimentally effect your grade.

**Class notes and Homework:**

The majority of class notes will be posted online and your homework will be to copy them. More information is to follow.

**Daily quizzes and Tardies:**

Each day you will have a quiz based on the previous day's lessons. All quizzes are approximately worth 5 points. If you are tardy, you will not be allowed to take the quiz. If you are absent and your absence is excused, you must make up the quiz by a specific time that night. All quizzes not made up by required day and time will result in a zero. At the end of the unit, all quizzes will be added up and that score will be your participation grade for that unit.

The point of the quizzes are as follows:

1. Review the materials from the day before.
2. Encourage students to get to class on time.
3. They will be an easy "A" for those that pay attention in class.

**List of needed Materials:**

The following is a list of materials that I am always in need of. If you have the ability to contribute, I will appreciate any and all contributions:

Paper (White copy paper)

Pencils

Pens

White Board Markers

Kleenex

Hand Sanitizer

Paper Towels

Clorox Wipes (I clean my desks at least once a week.)