



## Advanced Placement US Government & Politics Syllabus



### Course Description

Advanced Placement US Government and Politics is designed to stress the contemporary nature and function of the American national political system. It begins with a brief study of the framework of American political values and traditions. Most of the focus is given to the essential components of the institutions and processes through which the political system operates and public policy is adopted and implemented. At appropriate points, brief attention is given to state government and how it operates within the general framework of the national system. *This class is taught on a college freshman level. Students will be expected to complete outside assignments (i.e. reading) containing information only covered by exam/quiz questions but not discussed in class.*

### Daily Assignments

The length of assignments may vary on a day-to-day basis, but students can expect that every evening they will have some form of homework (reading). A test will be given at the end of the study of each unit. **Due to time constraints, any material not covered in class will always be the responsibility of the student.**

### Makeup-Missed Assignments/Tests

- If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it will be due the following class day!!
- Students have exactly one week from the missed test to arrange a time to take it!!
- You must make an appointment with me to make up missed tests/quizzes.

### Grades

Students' grades will be based upon their performance on tests, quizzes, short papers, essays, projects and daily class participation. There will not be many, if any, opportunities for extra credit, so students should put all of their energy into the required work.

***Test/Projects = 60% All other work = 40%***

### Units Taught

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Textbook</u>
I	Introducing Govt in America	Chapter 1
II	Constitutional Foundations	Chapters 2 & 3
III	Political Participation	Chapters 6, 8 & 10
IV	Campaign, Elections & the Media	Chapters 7 & 9
V	Congress	Chapter 11
VI	Presidency, Budget & Bureaucracy	Chapters 12,13 & 14
VII	Judicial Branch	Chapter 15
VIII	Civil Rights & Civil Liberties	Chapters 4 & 5
IX	Public Policy	Chapters 16, 17 & 18

## Grading

- Class-work will consist of a minimum of 6 minor grades (quizzes, homework) and a minimum of 3 major grades (tests, projects) per 9 weeks.
- Project grading will include some subjectivity. Most other assignments will be objectively graded.
- Test/Projects (60%); All other grades (40%)
- The final exam will count 20% of the course grade. Everyone takes the final exam. No exemptions for 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

## Class-work

- No late assignments will be taken!**
- Exceptions will be made for absences as per established school guidelines.
- A quiz or short assignment will be given for each chapter of *Government in America*.

## Tests/Re-tests

- Tests will be given according to the schedule provided (calendar).
- **Missed tests must be made-up within one week!** You must make an appointment to make up a test.

### Retesting

- Students may only re-test if the final grade on the test (i.e. the grade that goes in the grade-book) is below a 70. (Example: Student makes a 65 on the test but gets 10 pts on their notebook. As a result, the student's test grade placed in the grade-book is a 75 therefore they DO NOT get a re-test.)
- Re-Test Process: Re-tests will be a free response that covers several areas of the unit. Students will need to get this taken care of within ONE WEEK of the day they have been made aware of their failing test grade.
- Times for Re-test: Students need to make an appointment with Coach Keltner to re-test. Students CANNOT just show up and re-test. Coach Keltner must have prior notice of a student re-testing.

## Classroom Management

### Rules

1. Be in class and in your desk ready to begin class when the tardy bell rings. This includes having materials and assignments.
2. No talking/interrupting while someone else is speaking.
3. All rules stated in the Student Handbook.

### Discipline Procedures

1. Intervention/Verbal Warning/counsel by teacher & documentation
2. Parent contact and teacher d-hall & documentation
3. Additional parent contact and teacher d-hall & documentation
4. Office referral for continued misbehavior or progression of misbehavior after all previous steps taken

I am glad you are in my class and I hope you will enjoy it while learning. If you need me for anything, let me know and I will try to help.

Thanks,

Coach Keltner  
Home (903) 872-3482  
Cell (903) 654-0429  
[pkeltner@cisd.org](mailto:pkeltner@cisd.org)

# Notebook Requirement for AP US Government

## What you will need:

- 1 two inch (or *larger*) Heavy Duty (or better) Binder/Notebook
- 10 Notebook Dividers (1 for each Unit plus 1 extra just in case)
- 20-25 sheets of Notebook paper (for taking notes) NO SPIRALS!!!!

## How it will be graded:

- You will turn in your notebook each test day.
- Each student will start with a 100 notebook grade for the 9 weeks (test grade).
- I will deduct up to 25 pts based upon completeness and neatness.
- If you are absent for a test, the notebook will be due when you make up the test.
- Notebooks **will not** be accepted late. When you take the test (on time or a make-up) if you do not have your notebook you will lose all 25 pts.

## Other Items for your consideration:

- Completeness means-
  - Any work you have done and I have returned; any item that is handed out to you, the review sheet and material researched and all the notes you take for a given era will be placed in that section of your folder. Missing items will cause your score to be lowered. Items in the wrong section will cause your score to drop.
  - **Study Guide is worth 15 pts** (out of the 25).
- Neatness means-
  - Your notebook doesn't appear to live in the back of your pickup truck; under your piles of clothing at home; in your little brother/sister's room; anyplace the cat/dog can turn it into a toy; or that you treat it like it has no value, etc.
  - Please decorate your notebook to fit your character. Be creative and fun. Use bright colors. **Do not at any time have anything on the notebook that is inappropriate for school.** This includes any logos, slogans or sayings that would violate common decency. This also includes pictures of you or your friends in clothing or lack of clothing that is not appropriate at school.

**This notebook is not to be used for any other class!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**PUT YOUR NAME ON IT!!!!!!**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a student, I will be responsible for keeping up with my class-work and getting any help I need with class from an appropriate source and in a timely manner. I will also be a responsible citizen by following the rules and procedures as outlined by the student handbook and Coach Keltner.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent, I will be responsible to help my child be successful in AP US Government by encouraging my child to always use his/her time wisely, by stressing learning as its own reward and by communicating with Coach Keltner whenever necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone #