

AP U.S. Government and Politics with Economics
2016-2017 School Year
Mr. Van Ells (Room 736)
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Websites:

www.jvanells.info

Course Description:

(From the AP Web Site) United States Government and Politics is an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with emphasis on policy-making and implementation. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes in government and politics. Additionally, students will be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S Government and Politics. The concepts and specific topics examined in this course are those that may appear on the AP exam. All students taking this course must take the AP United States Government and Politics Exam.

The economics portion of the course will be based on the Project Based Learning format.

Text:

American Government and Politics in the Information Age, v. 1.0 by David L. Paletz, Diana Owen, and Timothy E. Cook (Online Version)

Current Events:

Aside from the course content, students will need to keep up with current events. This can be done in a variety of ways and with much of the information available online. Students can read national newspapers online: Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Boston Globe, Star Ledger, and Wall Street Journal. Students can read online magazines: The Week, The Atlantic, The Economist, The Weekly Standard, National Review, The New Republic, and Harper's.

Using Graphs, Maps, and Charts:

Students are tested on their understanding of quantitative and visually presented information (maps and graphs) at regular intervals in the quiz assignments. You are also responsible for including data analysis and interpretation in several projects

Student and Course Expectations:

The work done in this course is college level, and it is expected that all students will treat it as such. The majority of the course is delivered through CANVAS, on online learning platform.

- Complete all assigned readings from the textbook and other supplemental readings as well. If you want to do well on the AP exam, it is imperative that you keep up with the reading.

- Each chapter is divided into section and each section as critical thinking questions. Complete the questions online after you read the section. It is very important for you to keep up with the questions to be successful in the course.
- There will be projects assigned based on the Project Based Learning format. These projects require collaboration and teamwork from every participant.
- The multiple choice and fill-in word quizzes you will be given for every chapter are made up of AP style questions. If you expect to earn a high grade in this course, you must prepare for these tests by completing all assignments and participating in class.

Classwork / Homework Policies:

- Textbook reading: Students will be assigned textbook chapters in conjunction with the course units of study. Students will be expected to complete the corresponding material in Canvas.
- Supplemental readings: In addition to the textbook, students will frequently be assigned additional readings relating to the current unit of study. Students will often be required to be prepared to discuss or apply the readings to other activities in the course.
- Vocabulary: Terms associated with American Government and Politics will be emphasized throughout this course. Students will be responsible for learning the vocabulary associated with the course.

Evaluation:

The grading in each block for this course is based on the following:

1. Projects, Presentations & Chapter Tests - 40%
2. Summative Assignments (Writing Activities, and Other Assignments)- 40%
3. Formative Assignments (Critical Thinking Questions and Other Assignments) – 20%

Homework assignments in this course can be either Formative or Summative. Failure to complete any assignment could result in a disciplinary referral. Students are responsible for all coursework if they are absent. Failure to complete all required coursework could result in a grade of Incomplete. Late assignments from 1 to 7 calendar days from the due date will be penalized 10%. Late assignments from 8 to 14 calendar days from the due date will be penalized 20%. Assignments later than 14 calendar days will not be accepted and will receive 0 points.

Final Grade = 1st Block, 20% 2nd Block 20%, 3rd Block, 20%, 4th Block, 20%, Final Exam 20%

Students and Parents who register may view grades online using SchoolTool

Materials:

The majority of your assignments are completed and submitted online. Students should bring a one inch loose leaf binder with a supply of paper to class each day to record information given in class. Bring 2 pens or pencils to class each day. Please have available colored pencils and a ruler when necessary. No assignments will be accepted on notebook paper torn from a spiral notebook. There is a large supply of lined paper available in my room for those who need it. (No Exceptions) Keep in mind that some assignments are required to be typed.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All writing that you submit for credit in this course will be your own work. Do not copy published or unpublished writing without providing a full MLA citation for the work. If you have any question about

proper documentation of sources, see me for guidance. No credit will be awarded for work that violates the standards of academic honesty.

AP Exam:

The AP United States Government and Politics exam is given each May. The AP exam is 2 hours and 25 minutes long. It includes a 45 minute multiple choice section consisting of 60 questions and a 100 minute free-response section consisting of 4 questions.

Course Outline:

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The Constitution and the Structure of Government Power

Chapter 2: Federalism

Chapter 3: Political Culture and Socialization

Chapter 4: Communication in the Information Age

Chapter 5: Public Opinion

Chapter 6: Participation, Voting, and Social Movements

Chapter 7: Political Parties

Chapter 8: Campaigns and Elections

Chapter 9: Interest Groups

Chapter 10: Congress

Chapter 11: The Presidency

Chapter 12: The Bureaucracy

Chapter 13: The Courts

Chapter 14: Civil Liberties

Chapter 15: Civil Rights

Chapter 16: Policymaking and Domestic Policies

Chapter 17: Foreign and National Security Policies

Project Based Learning Economics Outline

1. Running in Place
2. The Invisible Hand
3. Monopoly Might
4. The Greater Good
5. The President's Dilemma
6. High School Food Court
7. Matildaville