



AP Government and Politics
Course Syllabus 2023- 2024
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This course is both AP Government and Politics classes taken in one-year. Both the AP United States Government and Politics and the AP Comparative Government and Politics are one semester each*. In May, students are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics exam, and are encouraged to take the Comparative Exam, although that is not mandatory. Students are also encouraged to take the State of Ohio EOC exam for US Gov.

There are really two major goals here: the first is to help you understand the complexity of the government and politics of the United States and six other countries chosen by the AP College Board. The second is to prepare you for the AP Exams in May by offering you challenging work that will push your reading, writing, and analytical skills. We begin the year with the Comparative Government class (aka CoGo), and then move onto US Government and Politics (aka USGoPo)

Books and short films: A large part of this course is reading, writing, and viewing. Your text books are Keeping the Republic, Barbour and Wright (the “green book”), and Introduction to Comparative Politics, Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph (I just refer to this one as “Kesselman”). News sources I tap for the best articles are The Economist, BBC, and Foreign Policy. The expectation is that if I post an article that you will read it and be able to discuss it or write about it. Most of the short films we watch will be documentaries on current or recent situations in the CoGo countries. It is tough to tell you exactly what we will be reading and watching, because the world changes daily, and conditions in our countries change all the time. In US Government we will read the *Declaration of Independence*, *United States Constitution* and related foundational documents, including several *Federalist Papers* and Dr Martin Luther King Jr’s *Letter From a Birmingham Jail* - all of which are required by AP College Board.

Themes: Ultimately, this class is about understanding the governmental systems and the politics at work in each of the seven countries we will study. Themes we will study to get there include: Sovereignty, Authority, and Power, Political Institutions and Interactions between the branches of government, Civil Rights and Liberties, and the various ways citizens participate (or not) in their government.

Grading: Your grade will be composed of your work on tests/quizzes, and assigned coursework, including writing assignments for each unit. Tests will be condensed versions of the AP Exam. Reading quizzes, if we have them, MAY be open notes sometimes, but don't be a lazy reader just because reading quizzes might be open notes.

A note about your writing assignments: AP Courses are intended to provide high school students with a college level academic experience. To that end, the expectation is that your writing is already at an advanced level. All written assignments that I collect on paper must be typed and printed, using complete MLA formatting that you have learned in English class. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are expected to be correct.

Papers replete with errors that distract from the content will be downgraded accordingly. It is understood that by this time in your academic career that you recognize various forms of plagiarism, and understand that it will not be tolerated.

The AP Exams: You must take the US Government and Politics exam in May. Registration and payment information will be forthcoming (handled by Mrs Kennerly).

You do NOT have to take the CoGo exam ; however, if you pass (a 3,4,or 5) you MAY receive college credit for the course (depending on where you go). There are a number of study guides available for you to prep with. We will also be focusing on the specific skills and required information you will need for both tests. However, how you do on the exam does not affect your classroom grade in any way.

Some classroom policies: To quote a song from a 70s film, "we've got a long way to go and a short time to get there"**. The time between the start of school and the AP Exams is both a sprint AND a marathon. That being said, attendance is very important. I follow the school **tardy** policy. If you accumulate tardies, you will have a detention. Please make every effort to be on time for class. I start on time, and normally take the whole 43 minutes I am allotted for your class. Second...**cell phones**. You should not be using your phone in class unless I specify we are using them. Tell your mom you can't answer her during class time. You are absolutely **NOT** allowed to take photos or record any videos in the classroom. No images from the classroom should make their way onto social media.

Latework: Per Social Studies department policy, late work may be submitted for reduced credit until the unit exam, then it will not be accepted. I almost never take assignments in my email or just "shared". If an assignment is digital, there will be a submission location on Google Classroom.

Communication: If you miss class, you should always **email** as soon as you can to see what you missed. I will usually answer an email until around 8 pm, and maybe even on

the weekend ! If you have a question about something in class, please email me. Most communication from me will take place on the Google Classroom stream, so it is very important that you check that regularly.

* Approximately

** Anyone know the film ? Without Googling ?

