

**Course Name:** AP US Government and Politics

**Duration:**  1 Semester  Full Year

**Grade Level:**  9th  10th  11th  12th (check all that apply)

### Are there any prerequisites for the course?

No prerequisites

### WHAT this course is about:

#### Brief Overview

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students pursue their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, federalism, interactions among the branches, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

### WHY take this course:

By taking the AP US Government and Politics course, **you will better understand how your government functions and how as a citizen you can participate. You will develop critical thinking skills, improve writing skills, become a more informed citizen, it build off of other AP courses you may have taken, and it will help you prepare for post-secondary success.**

### WHAT you'll learn:

#### Course Content

The course framework specifies what students should know and be able to do, with a focus on big ideas that encompass core principles and theories of US government. The framework also encourages instruction that prepares students for advanced political science coursework and active, informed participation in our constitutional democracy.

The AP U.S. Government and Politics framework is organized into five commonly taught units of study for the course. Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among the Branches of Government, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, Political Ideologies and Beliefs, and Political Participation.

## **WHAT you'll do:**

### **Disciplinary Practices**

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course outlines distinct skills, called disciplinary practices, that students should practice throughout the year—practices that will help them learn to think and act like political scientists. Skills include, concept application, comparing court cases, data analysis, source analysis and argumentation.

## **WHERE this could take you:**

This course can earn you a college credit, prepare you for post-secondary life, a career in political science and become a more informed citizen.

## **OPTIONAL Course Outline (“scope and sequence”, sequence chart, etc.)**

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