ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

OTHER MATERIALS:  Assigned and used in class: articles from the major weekly newsmagazines, the local daily newspaper, as well as news reports/programs of the major TV news programs, and various Web sites. This will supplement text material with the latest information available.
CURRENT EVENTS: Daily discussion of current events. Student will need to read a newspaper, watch a TV news program, or listen to a radio news program.
GRAPHS, CHARTS: Students will be tested on their understanding of graphs and charts on a regular basis as the appropriate FRQ from released AP exams coincide with the text material.
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: The students will on a weekly basis write on a FRQ which coincides with the text material. The assignment may be “homework” or in class under timed writing conditions.
POLICY PAPER: Students will write a 3-5 page typewritten policy paper. This requires research using primary sources. A topic of current interest concerning local, county, state, or national government is required. The paper will have three parts: Background, three alternative policy proposals, and a policy recommendation. A 5 minute oral presentation is also required. Specific details will provide in a separate handout.
EXAMINATIONS: Are standardized multiple choice exams and all the released AP exams. The goal is help prepare the student for the AP multiple choice exam. Essay writing for the AP exam is practiced throughout the course through released FRQs from previous exams. The goal is develop an AP Government writing style.
COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course places attention upon understandings equivalent to those in a college-level introductory course. The course is designed to provide a Comprehensive overview of U.S. government and politics and to provide the student with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. government: 1) Constitutional underpinnings of U.S. government, 2) Political beliefs and behaviors, 3) Political parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media,

STUDENT OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

- Evaluate political science theories, concepts of government, and actual government practices.
- Describe the origins, development, and operation of the U.S. governmental system.
- Compare/contrast the governmental systems of the major world powers.
- Analysis/Interpretation of data and relationships in U.S. government and politics.
- Written Analysis/Interpretation of the subject matter of U.S. government and politics through essay examinations, questions, and research assignments.
- Answer standardized multiple choice examinations.
- Express themselves orally and in writing with clarity and precision.
- Prepare for and take the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics exam in May.

CHAPTERS OF STUDY:
Chapter 1 Introducing Government in America
Chapter 2 The Constitution
Chapter 3 Federalism
Chapter 4 Civil Liberties and Public Policy
Chapter 5 Civil Rights and Public Policy
Chapter 6 Public Opinion and Political Action
Chapter 7 The Mass Media and the Political Agenda
Chapter 8 Political Parties
Chapter 9 Nominations and Campaigns
Chapter 10 Elections and Voting Behavior
Chapter 11 Interest Groups
Chapter 12 Congress
Chapter 13 The Presidency
Chapter 14 The Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending
Chapter 15 The Federal Bureaucracy
Chapter 16 The Federal Courts
Chapter 17 Economic Policymaking
Chapter 18 Social Welfare Policymaking
Chapter 19 Policymaking for Health Care and the Environment
Chapter 20 National Security Policymaking

OUTLINE OF COURSE:
Week 1: Introducing Government in America. What is the purpose of government? What is democracy? What is the scope of government in America?
Edwards: Ch. 1
Woll: Ch. 1
Week 2 and 3: The Constitution. What are the origins of the Constitution? Why did the Articles of Confederation fail? What were the Founders view of the purpose and the role of the citizen? What was the Madisonian model? The ratification process. Why so many compromises?
Edwards: Ch. 2
Woll: Ch. 3 Anti-Federalists
The Constitution: Appendix
FRQ: 2001 Exam Q. 1
Exam
Week 4: Federalism. What is federalism? How does federalism work? How does it compare to other constitutional/governmental systems? What are the Constitution’s Distribution of powers? Dual to cooperative federalism. What is fiscal federalism? The role of federalism in the scope of the national government.
Edwards: Ch. 3
Woll: Ch.2 Federalist 39
FRQ: 1997 Exam Q. 2
FRQ: 2002 Exam Q. 3
Exam
Week 5: Civil Liberties and Public Policy. What are the Bill of Rights? Application of Bill of Rights to the states. The meanings of the freedom of religion, the establishment clause, Supreme Court cases. The other First Amendments rights: speech, press and assembly along with Supreme Court cases. What are defendant rights and Supreme Court cases?
Edwards: Ch. 4
Woll: Ch. 3
FRQ: 2005 Exam Q. 3
FRQ: What would a liberal interpretation of the First Amendment mean for the protection of civil liberties? What factors tend to prevent such a literal interpretation?
Exam
Week 6: Civil Rights and Public Policy. What are the constitutional concepts concerning equality? What have been the issues of race concerning the Constitution? What have been the issues of women concerning the Constitution? What are the Civil Rights issues for the disabled, elderly, and gay concerning the Constitution? What is the role of Affirmative Action and civil rights and the Constitution?
Edwards: Ch. 5
FRQ: 2005 Exam Q. 3
FRQ: How would you define equality? What does the constitution say about equality? Explain how the right to vote has been expanded to include both African Americans and women? How was the struggle for suffrage among these two groups similar and different?
Exam
Week 7: Public Opinion and Political Action. Trace the demographic changes in the American population. What is the process of political socialization in American politics? How do we measure public opinion and political information? American ideologies: who are conservatives, moderates, and liberals? What are the ways that Americans participate in politics? What are the general publics’ attitudes toward government?
Edwards: Ch. 6
FRQ: 1998 Exam Q. 4
Exam
Week 8: The Mass Media and the Political Agenda. What is the mass media? What is the media’s role in politics? What are the ways in which the news is reported? What is the relationship of the media to public opinion?
Edwards: Ch. 7
FRQ: 2003 Exam Q. 2

Week 9: Political Parties. What is a political party? How are political parties organized? What are the demographics of our political parties? Why two major political parties? What functions do political parties fulfill? What role do third parties play in the political process? What is the responsible party model? What role do political parties play in policy?
Edwards: Ch. 8
Woll: Ch. 4 Political Parties
FRQ: 2004 Exam Q. 4

Week 10: Nominations and Campaigns: How do political parties nominate their candidates? How do candidates and political parties run a campaign? How do candidates and political parties raise money for campaigns? What is the impact of a campaign on government and public policy?
Edwards: Ch. 9
FRQ: 2001 Exam Q. 2
FRQ: 2000 Exam Q. 4

Week 11: Elections and Voting Behavior. How do our elections work? How do Americans vote? What are the factors for and against voting? What are the various social, economic, and religious factors concerning elections and voting? Why the Electoral College?
Edwards: Ch. 10
FRQ: 2000 Exam Q. 3
FRQ: 2002 Exam Q. 4

Week 12: Interest Groups. What is an interest group? What are the theories of interest group politics? What role(s) do(es) interest groups play in the political process? Why
are some interest groups successful while others are not? What is the methods interest
groups use in an attempt to shape public policy? What are the major types of interest
groups?
Edwards: Ch. 11
FRQ: 2004 Exam Q. 2
FRQ: 2006 Exam Q. 1
Exam
Week 13: Congress. What are the Constitutional requirements to be either a
Representative or Senator? What are the responsibilities of a senator and a
representative? What are the demographics of our congress members? What are the
advantages of incumbency? How is Congress organized to make policy? What are
Constitutional duties of Congress?
Edwards: Ch. 12
Woll: Ch. 8
FRQ: 2003 Exam Q. 4
Exam
Week 14: The Presidency. What are the Constitutional duties/powers of a President?
What are the demographics of our recent presidents? What roles do the Vice-President,
Cabinet, White House Staff, and NSC, CEA, and OMB play in assisting the President
execute his Constitutional duties? What are the duties in the following roles: Chief
Executive, Chief Legislator, Chief Diplomat, and Commander in Chief? How does the
media and public opinion shape Presidential policymaking?
Edwards: Ch. 13
Woll: Ch. 6
FRQ: 2003 Exam Q. 3
Exam
Week 15: The Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Politics of Taxing and
Spending. What are the sources of federal revenue? What are the federal expenditures?
What is the budgetary process?
Edwards: Ch. 14
FRQ: 2003 Exam Q. 3
Exam
Week 16: The Federal Bureaucracy. What is bureaucracy? Who are bureaucrats? What are the demographics of bureaucrats? What functions does the bureaucracy fulfill? How is our bureaucracy organized? What roles do bureaucracies fulfill as implementers and regulators? What is an iron triangle? Why is there a love/hate opinion about bureaucracies?
Edwards: Ch. 15
Woll: Ch. 7
FRQ: 2006 Exam Q. 3
Exam

Week 17: The Federal Courts. What are the Constitutional duties of the Judiciary branch? What is the nature of the judicial system? What is the structure of the federal judicial system? How are federal judges selected? What are the demographics of federal judges? How does the Supreme Court select cases? What is the role of the federal courts in policy making and the policy agenda? What are the historic Supreme Court decisions? What is the original and appellate jurisdiction? What is the scope of judicial power?
Edwards. Ch. 16
Woll: Ch. 9
FRQ: 2000 Exam Q. 2
Exam

Week 18: Semester Exams
Week 19: Economic Policymaking. What is the role of government and politics in the economy? Why the economic fear of unemployment and inflation? What is the monetary policy? What role does the “Fed” play in monetary policy? Why is it hard to control the economy? What are the arenas of economic policymaking? What factors play in economic policymaking?
Edwards: Ch. 17
Exam

Week 20: Social Welfare Policymaking. What is social policy and why is it controversial? How does government help the poor? What are entitlements? What are the major social welfare entitlement programs? What is the future of Social Security?
Edwards: Ch. 18
FRQ: 2002 Q. 2
Exam
Week 21: Policymaking for Health Care and the Environment. What should be the role of government in health care? What is the present status of health care in America? What are the government health care programs? What are the major environmental policies? What are the major energy policies? Why are health care, environment, and energy policies so controversial? Global warming: fact or fiction?
Edwards: Ch. 19

Exam

Edwards: Ch. 20

FRQ: 2004 Exam Q. 1

Exam

GRADES: Since this class is designed for the highly motivated high school student who wishes to prepare him/herself for college encounters, the examinations will be standardized multiple choice and essay questions. Class discussions and participation over text, lectures, and assigned readings are required. The reading of a daily newspaper and/or the regular viewing of television news programming for current political information is strongly recommended. Grading scale adheres to Union High School Student Handbook.
COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course places attention upon understandings equivalent to those in a college-level introductory course. This course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of U.S. government and politics and to provide the student with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. government: 1) Constitutional underpinnings of U.S. government, 2) Political beliefs and behaviors, 3) Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media, 4) Institutions of National Government, 5) Public Policy, and 6) Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

- Evaluate political science theories, concepts of government, and actual government practices.
- Describe the origins, development, and operation of the U.S. governmental system.
- Compare/Contrast the governmental systems of the major world powers
- Analysis/Interpretation of data and relationships in U.S. government and politics.
- Written Analysis/Interpretation of the subject matter of U.S. government and politics through essay examinations, questions, and research assignments.
- Answer standardized multiple choice examinations.
- Express themselves orally and in writing with clarity and precision.
- Prepare for and take the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics exam in May.

CHAPTERS OF STUDY:
Chapter 1 Introducing Government in America
Chapter 2 The Constitution
Chapter 3 Federalism
Chapter 4 Civil Liberties and Public Policy
Chapter 5 Civil Rights and Public Policy
Chapter 6 Public Opinion and Political Action
Chapter 7 The Mass Media and the Political Agenda
Chapter 8 Political Parties
Chapter 9 Nominations and Campaigns
Chapter 10 Elections and Voting Behavior
Chapter 11 Interest Groups
Chapter 12 Congress
Chapter 13 The Presidency
Chapter 14 The Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending
Chapter 15 The Federal Bureaucracy
Chapter 16 The Federal Courts
Chapter 17 Economic Policymaking
Chapter 18 Social Welfare Policymaking
Chapter 19 Policymaking for Health Care and the Environment
Chapter 20 National Security Policymaking

GRADES: Since this class is designed for the highly motivated high school student who wishes to prepare him/herself for college encounters, the examination will be standardized multiple choice and essay questions. Free Response essay assignments will be completed in class or as homework. All students will submit a policy paper along with a brief oral presentation. Class discussions and participation over text, lectures, and assigned readings are required. The reading of a daily newspaper and/or the regular viewing of television news programming for current political information is strongly recommended. Grading scale adheres to the Union High School Student Handbook.