

# AP<sup>®</sup> UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



## About the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>)

The Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

## AP Government Program

The AP Program offers two government courses: AP United States (U.S.) Government and Politics and AP Comparative Government and Politics. Each course is designed to be equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course. There is no prescribed sequence of study. A school may offer one or both courses.

## AP United States Government and Politics Course Overview

AP United States Government and Politics introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments.

### RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisite courses for AP United States Government and Politics. Students should be able to read a college level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

## AP United States Government and Politics Course Content

Students study general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and analyze specific topics, including:

- Constitutional Underpinnings;
- Political Beliefs and Behaviors;
- Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media;
- Institutions of National Government;
- Public Policy; and
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

An integral part of the course includes analysis and interpretation of basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics, and the development of connections and application of relevant theories and concepts.

## Course Goals and Objectives

Students successfully completing this course will:

- Describe and compare important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics.
- Explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures).
- Interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats).
- Critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum.

