



## AP US Government and Politics Course Syllabus 2015-16

**Course Description:** This course offers an in-depth study of the ideas, institutions, and the process of the United States Government. Students will also analyze and interpret data and develop skills in using data to draw conclusions and to make assumptions. Students will utilize current events and make broader connections to the curriculum. AP U.S. Government and Politics will prepare students for the AP Exam. The content of this course aligns to the scope and sequence specified by the College Board.

**Textbook:** *American Government: Roots and Reform*  
2012 Election Edition: Karen O'Connor and Larry Sabato

**Secondary:** Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics Barron's Book. (Purchase this as soon as possible—Most up to date version!)

**\*Sign up for REMIND as soon as possible.**

### Course Topics:

#### **\*Introductory Summer Assignment Assessment: United States Constitution (Aug)**

Chapter 1: American Government (September)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #1)

Chapter 2: The Constitution (September)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #2)

Chapter 3: Federal System (September)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #3)

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties (October)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #4)

Chapter 5: Civil Rights (October)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #5)

Chapter 6: Congress (October)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #6)

**Unit 1 Examination with Free Response Questions**  
**(Chapters 1-6 Assessments) Bring index cards for all chapters!**

Chapter 7: The Presidency (November)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #7)

Chapter 8: The Executive Branch and Bureaucracy (November)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #8)

Chapter 9: The Judiciary (December)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #9)

Chapter 10: Political Opinion and Socialization (January)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #10)

**Unit 2 Examination with Free Response Questions**

Chapter 11: Political Parties (February)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #11)

Chapter 12: Elections and Voting (February)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #12)

Chapter 13: The Campaign Process (February)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #13)

Chapter 14: The News Media (March)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #14)

Chapter 15: Interest Groups (March)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #15)

Chapter 16: Domestic Policy (March)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #16)

**Unit 3 Examination with a Free Response Questions**  
**(Chapter 11-16 Assessments) Bring index cards with for all chapters!**

Chapter 17: Economic Policy (April)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #17)

Chapter 18: Foreign and Defense Policy (April)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #18)

Chapter 19: Foreign and Domestic Policy (April)  
(\*Chapter Assessment #19)

**Pre-AP Exam Assessments (Just like actual AP Exam!)**

**Assessments:** As you can see from the above framework, we will have an assessment at the end of every chapter, three unit examinations (Nov, Jan, and April) and one mid-term exam in January. The three unit exams will cover all material from the chapters listed. The chapter assessments will help prepare you for the unit exams, for the mid-term, and for the AP Test in May.

**Index Cards:** You are expected to keep and maintain index flash cards for each chapter's key vocabulary words found on in the chapter reading. These index cards should have the vocabulary word on the front, and the definition on the back. They will be checked during the Unit Exams and at the end of the year.

You are to keep a well organized notebook. I will check this notebook during the mid-term and final examinations and assign a grade.

**Other Instructional Strategies:**

- Simulations/Activities
- Analysis of political data
- Interpreting documents and political cartoons.
- Debate
- Research Assignments
- Roundtable/Panel Discussions
- Direct Instruction
- Small Group Activities
- Unit Tests/Quizzes

**Please bookmark the following website:**

**<http://www.citizenu.org/>**

**Course Focus:**

This course will cover the following topics for the Advanced Placement test:

- Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government (5-15%)
- Political Beliefs and Behaviors (10-20%)
- Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media (10-20%)
- Institutions of National Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts (35-45%)
- Public Policy (5-15%)
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (5-15%)