This semester course is a study of the basic beliefs and ideals which underlie American democracy; its historical roots; and how its legal, governmental, and economic institutions affect public policy at the local, state, national, and international levels. Special emphasis is given to preparing the student for the College Board's Advanced Placement Test in American Government.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Term and Year: Fall 2015  
Name of Instructor: Richard Pauly  
Room Number: C-317  
Telephone Number: (916) 433-5200 x 1317  
E-mail Address: Richard-Pauly@scusd.edu

TEXTBOOKS AND/OR REQUIRED READING


We The People-The Citizen & The Constitution, Level 3, Center For Civic Education C. 2009

RECOMMENDED READING – AP Study Guides – Select One


GENERAL COURSE OVERVIEW

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a one-semester course designed to analyze the American political system through both the framework of the Constitution, as developed by the "Founding Fathers", and through the politically charged system that we find operating our government today. A focus of this course, through current events, video clips, and supplemental readings, is on the institutions and processes through which the political system operates and the public policy that is adopted and implemented. AP Government students attempt to answer three main questions:

1. Upon what historical precedents is public policy based?
2. How do people today influence policymaking?
3. What effect does public policy have on the people and the world?

COLLEGE CREDIT

This course is the equivalent of a college course and students are encouraged to prepare to take the AP Exam in the Spring Semester (Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 8am). There are several advantages to taking the AP US Government exam: foremost is the potential to earn college credit while still in high school. The exam is 2 hours and 45 minutes in length. Half of the exam is a 45-minute, 60 question multiple-choice section. The other half of the exam is a 120-minute essay section with four free-response questions. The A.P. U.S. Government exam is graded on a five-point scale. Generally, most public universities award credit to students who earn a 3 or higher while many private colleges require a score of 4 or higher. For example, a score of 3 or better will fulfill the American Institutions requirement at UC Berkeley. However, since each school is free to set its own policy, students are advised to check the policies of institutions they are interested in attending.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & RIGOR

Mastery of content in this class requires participation in group and class discussions and activities, as well as individual study and preparation. After being introduced to a particular topic, students will be expected to prepare at home for in-class content application. This class is void of “busy work”; every assignment is given with the intent of expanding understanding, developing cognitive skill sets, and preparing students for civic engagement. Extra Credit opportunities will be rare in this class, so students should commit to consistently completing assignments and preparing for assessments. Mastery of the course is assessed in the following ways

| Assessments (MCQs/Final Exam) | 20% |
| Projects (including class debates and debate prep) | 20% |
| Writing (including FRQs) | 20% |
| Classwork (including warm-ups) | 20% |
| Homework (including Summer Reading, Socratic Seminars & Video comments) | 20% |
FLIPPED CLASSROOM

Mr. Pauly uses the concept of ‘flipping’, wherein students’ access content at home, then use class time to discuss, analyze, evaluate, and apply the content using debate, Socratic discussions, projects, and other methods. Students in this class will access content from home primarily by two ways: the textbook and online video lectures (see: AP GOPO: Google Drive Site)

To receive points for the “Video Comments” category (above), students must watch the weekly chapter videos/PPTs and submit 2+ relevant comments or questions BEFORE the day of the class discussion on the content of that video.

In addition, each weekend an online assignment will be open for the chapter we will discuss the following week. Students will be required to submit responses using their turnitin.com account. The window will be open Friday by 4pm, and will close at midnight on Sunday. Assignments will be on AP GOPO Google Drive Site.

QUIZ REDEMPTION

While chapter reading outlines are encouraged, they are not generally collected. If, however, a student scores below 80% on a quiz, he/she may submit an outline for the chapter(s) that quiz covers to receive up to a 70% quiz score. The outline must be stamped by Mr. Pauly to show that it was completed BEFORE the quiz was taken.

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%+</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or below</td>
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All make-ups (including quizzes) must be completed within five days of an excused absence. Late assignments are worth, at best, 50% of the original grade.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be respectful, courteous, and civil. The following are a few of the more notable expectations students will follow:

1. Be in your seat and ready to begin work when the bell rings.
2. Treat others with respect at all times
3. Be on task, and offer help to others if you finish early (when appropriate)
4. Keep your electronic devices hidden and silent unless the instructor approves use.
5. Adhere to the JFK expectations of academic integrity.*

*Plagiarism: Any student found willfully plagiarizing will lose all credit for the assignment, and they will not have the ability to make up those lost points. Plagiarizing twice will result in a failing grade for the semester.
COURSE EMPHASIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>% of Course Emphasis</th>
<th>Time Spent on Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government</td>
<td>5-15%</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Political Beliefs and Behaviors</td>
<td>10-20%</td>
<td>1 week *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media</td>
<td>10-20%</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Institutions of Government: The Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Courts</td>
<td>35-45%</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Public Policy</td>
<td>5-15%</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties</td>
<td>5-15%</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This content area is also heavily emphasized throughout the course

Note: Several weeks throughout the second semester Economics class will be devoted to the continued study of Government, including a week of California Government, a week of preparation and essay writing with the Operation Protect and Defend organization, and review for the AP Government Exam.

A.P. Government & Politics Executive Summary

Please sign on the next page to confirm you understand. Students and parents understand that...

- A.P. U.S. Government is as hard, or harder, than a college survey government class.
- Most students do not earn an “A” in an A.P. course.
- Only students who are motivated, persistent, and take the initiative for their learning do well in A.P. classes.
- Students will learn much more in an A.P. class than any regular class.
- Students who take A.P. classes usually do much better in college.
- The A.P. U.S. Government Exam will be given on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 and will cost approx. $87.
- Students will have to complete an 8-page term paper.
- Extensive outside research is necessary for the class.