

NOUVEL HIGH SCHOOL

ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

COURSE SYLLABUS

<p>COURSE DESCRIPTION:</p>	<p>Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics class is open to Juniors and Seniors. The course is a full year, one credit course. This course will include all the topics covered in American Government but in a more detailed and deeper understanding. It will also include a study of the different political ideology that shaped our government as well as other world governments. Current events and issues will be addressed with use of a daily or weekly publication. Outside reading is required. Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP exam in May. College Board description of this class will be given to you.</p> <p>Common Core Standards for Social Studies:</p> <p>Students will be able to analyze in detail how a complex primary course is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole. (Common Core Reading Standard 5)</p> <p>Students will be able to draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (Common Core Writing 9)</p>
<p>MAJOR COURSE GOALS:</p>	<p>The major goal of this class is for each student to pass the College Board Advanced Placement test in May.</p>
<p>COURSE ASSESSMENT PLAN:</p>	<p>Test: The multiple choice test will consist of questions similar to questions found on the AP test. Each multiple choice test will consist of 20 questions with one free-response question.</p> <p>Free Response: The Free Response questions will familiarize and prepare students for the AP test. Students will use previous questions from past AP tests to develop the analytical skills necessary to succeed in understanding and completing these questions.</p> <p>Participation: Participation consists of demonstrating a professional approach to learning within the classroom. Actions that improve the learning environment will increase a student’s participation grade. Actions that disrupt the learning environment will decrease a student’s participation grade. Analysis of political events is key to understanding political concepts covered in the classroom. Students will develop their analytical skills by monitoring current political events and connecting them to concepts covered in the classroom.</p> <p>Reading Quiz: Students are expected to read the assigned material,</p>

	prepare notes and questions on that material, and participate in class discussion concerning the material. Daily reading quizzes could take place on this material. Students are able to use any notes they have taken on the quizzes. Notes are not used on multiple choice tests or the free response questions.
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NEEDED:	Wilson, James Q. and Dilulio, John J. <u>American Government</u> . New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. McClenaghan, William A. <u>American Government</u> . Boston: Prentice Hall, 2007. Woll, Peter. <u>American Government: Readings and Cases</u> . New York: Harper Collins College Publishers, 1996.
EXTRA HELP:	If you need extra help, need to take a test or quiz, or have questions or comments about the class, I am available at 7:00 before school. I will be available after school until 3:15. I am also available during my prep period which is 5 th hour.
INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY:	Every student learns differently, therefore several different teaching strategies will be used in this class. Each day when you enter the room there will be a quote, chart, question, fact, or picture for you go think about. This will be related to the subject area of the day. Attendance will be taken and homework will be collected immediately. If you are unexcused tardy and are not in your desk when I collect homework, you will receive a zero. Information will be given through a PowerPoint, discussion, in-class activity or debate. At the end of each hour there will be a brief review of the information presented that day. There will also be time for students to ask questions or raise concerns.
MAJOR COURSE PROJECTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:	Readings- selected from various sources, will be assigned throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to have readings completed before the class period. Tests and quizzes- you will be held responsible for all material assigned and covered in this class. You will always have at least three days notice before any test. Quizzes may or may not be announced. If you are absent (excused) on the day a test or quiz is given you will make it up upon your return to class. If your absence is one related to a school activity (sports, field trip, etc.), you need to take your test or quiz before you go. If you are unexcused, you do not get to make up tests, quizzes, or homework. Homework- No late assignments will be accepted! If you are absent (excused), you have as many days as you were gone to make up your work. For example, if you are gone two days, you have two days to hand in homework to receive credit. Participation- You are expected to participate in class discussions and in small groups. Points may or may not be assigned for participation. Attendance is

	<p>important! When you are not in class you miss out on lectures, discussions, speakers and movies.</p>
<p>CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial assignment in each chapter is for student to analyze selected Figures, Tables and Charts. They must determine the purpose of the chart, identify patterns and make inferences from the presented data. • Free-Response questions are somewhat unique to the AP Government Exam. Special care will be taken to teach students the necessary skills to answer these questions. Over the entire course students will average at least one FRQ each week. • Students must be made aware of contemporary politics. In conjunction with their supplemental readings, students will read and critique political editorials. One of the primary goals is for students to understand the author's frame of reference. Students are encouraged to select authors across the broad political spectrum. • Students will complete short-answer questions from each chapter structured in FRQ style. This methodology helps students with learning FRQ writing techniques. It also increases their question reading discipline as well as providing excellent study notes. • To help prepare for weekly chapter quizzes students are encouraged to take reading notes that may be used in open note, closed book quizzes. The primary goal is to get the students to read their textbook. • Each student will complete an election research project. They will be given two candidates running in the upcoming election. They will research the data and predict which candidate will win the election based on a number of critical indicators. (Districting, safe district or competitive district, money raised, source of funds, etc.) Students are amazed at how few districts are traditionally competitive. • To better understand the politics of the legislative process, each student will be assigned a standing committee to research. They will present their findings to their classmates so this becomes a networking assignment. • Each student will be assigned a debate on a contemporary policy issue. (From Bill of Rights issues to Judicial Activism) This assignment provides for excellent student interaction and is very popular among the students. • Each student will complete Unit, Mid-term, and Final Exams. The Final Exam will be as much like the AP Government Exam as possible.
<p>HOMEWORK POLICY AND GRADING SCALE:</p>	<p>Homework will be assigned on a regular basis. No late homework assignments will be accepted! There is no set number of points at which we will arrive by the end of the semester. Grades will be put into Skyward in a timely manner. We will follow the grading scale listed in your handbook. You may come in to discuss your grade before or after school, never during class.</p>

CONTACT INFORMATION:	
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