

Course Title: Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics
Board Approval Date: June, 2010
Credit / Hours: 1 credit

This course is designed as an elective for those students who are college bound, and want the challenge of a course that is designed to be a freshman level college course that will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course will cover all of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Civics and Government. The course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U.S. Politics. Students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. During the month of May, the students will have the opportunity to take a test offered by the Educational Testing Service. If students score well on the test, they may receive some college credit. It is expected that the course content will be covered in time for the AP exam in early May. Remaining class periods will be used to finalize/formalize projects, and discuss current events related to previously learned content, as well as in the beginning of the course, to establish testing, and essay-writing procedures, and practice on both.

Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:

Large group instruction
Tests and Quizzes
History “Labs”
Checklists / Teacher Observation
Small group work
Projects with Rubrics
Computer simulations
In Class Essays (FRQs)
Chart/Graph/Political Cartoon Analysis

Instructional Resources:

Textbooks:

Title: American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, **Publisher:** Wadsworth Publishing **Published Date:** 2006 **Author:** Barbara A. Bardes , **Second Author:** Mack C. Shelley

SUPPLEMENTAL READERS:

The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, Edited by Ann G Serow, Everett C. Ladd, Fourth Edition, 2007 Lanahan

READINGS in American Government Fifth Edition, Schmidt, Shelley, Merkley, 2006, Thomson/Wadsworth

Appropriate Internet Resources