

AP US Government and Politics Syllabus

CHS 2023-2024

RCAS Policies/Procedures

Students will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, click [handbook](#).

Course Description

This course is an in-depth study of the American political system. The course focuses on the foundations of American democracy, interactions between branches of government, civil liberties, and civil rights, American political beliefs and ideologies, and political participation. Students will be required to do substantial reading and writing; active participation in classroom discussion is expected.

Grading

Student work will consist of the following:

Academic Behavior Goals: Collaborative goals created by the student and teacher to improve academic and personal abilities

Practice: work and assignments designed to help students build knowledge and skills (daily work, notes, participation work)

Assessments: work and assignments designed to formatively assess student progress towards learning targets (quizzes, learning checks)...assignments designed to summatively assess a student's achievement of a learning target (tests, essays, projects)

Student will be assessed on the following skills on a scale of 4:

Skill #1: Concept Application

Skill #2: Data Analysis

Skill #3: Source Analysis

Skill #4: Argumentation

Student scores will be on a scale of 1 to 4, indicating mastery:

4	3	2	1
Exceeds Proficiency	Meets Proficiency	Approaching Proficiency	Developing Foundations

Textbook

American Politics and Government Today FIRST AP® EDITION, Bianco and Canon

Reading

Foundational Documents and Cases as required by the [College Board](#)

Instructional Resources

Savvas, Canvas, Supplemental videos via College Board and Norton, Activities pulled from online sources available via Canvas LMS

Essential Questions

How do founding documents describe how our government should work? To what extent should we be faithful to the founders' intentions?

How are elections run? To what extent do elections reflect the will of the people?

How does the government work together to make laws? To what extent is Congress designed to make laws that reflect the will of the people?

In what way(s) have the leadership and actions of particular Presidents moved us closer to, or further from, our nation's democratic ideals?

How does the Supreme Court work? How does the Supreme Court balance the rights of the individual and the needs of society?

How does the government work together to implement public policy? To what extent is the way government implements public policy beneficial or detrimental to the people?

Essential Learning Intentions

[College Board Learning Objectives](#)

Skill 1: Form conclusions about a political concept.

Identify the political concept.

Describe the political concept.

Explain how the political concept relates to another political principle, institution, or process.

Skill 2: Compare two Supreme Court cases.

Identify the constitutional issue.

Describe the facts, reasoning, decision, and opinion(s) of the precedent Supreme Court case.

Explain how the cases are similarly or differently resolved.

Apply a judicial concept or principle.

Skill 3: Analyze quantitative data.

Identify a trend or pattern.

Draw a conclusion for the visual representation.

Explain how it relates to a political principle, institution, or process.

Skill 4: Develop an argument.

State a defensible claim that establishes a line of reasoning.

Defend the claim with supporting evidence from one foundational document.

Defend the claim with supporting evidence from another foundational document or source.

Connect the evidence to the claim, using reasoning.

Include a rebuttal, or counterclaim.