

Canyon Crest Academy: Advanced Placement Government and Politics

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Very Difficult	90-120 minutes	<p>District 12th Grade only</p> <p>Department This is a nine-week course The department strongly recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careful attention paid to the rest of the student's academic load. This course has a considerable amount of work associated with it. Students with extensive extracurricular commitments and with several academic classes in one term generally report being stressed.• Students having previously taken another AP level course (i.e., AP World History or AP U.S. History)• Having taken AP English Language with a grade of "B" or better• Reading and writing abilities which exceed grade level (12th grade reading level recommended)• The ability to grasp complex and abstract ideas and theories• A strong, independent work-ethic• The ability to self-advocate and independently seek instructional direction when confused.

Course Description

This college-level course is an introduction to the United States national government. We will study government institutions and political processes and examine policy choices. The institutions and policies of the United States government will be considered in light of historical change, constitutional procedures, and comparative perspectives

The AP American Government curriculum covers the foundations of American democracy through the study of essential documents, the rights and obligations of American citizens, the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government, an analysis of landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations, issues regarding campaigns and elections and a study of American foreign and domestic policy. Students will be held responsible for any and all information made available to them through text and supplemental readings, writing assignments, lectures, student presentations, etc.

The goal of the course is to educate the student in American Government, prepare them for the AP exam, explore different political issues, and further develop the foundations of the student's ideology. The American Government course is a valuable opportunity for students to become exposed to a variety of events, ideas, persons and places that will broaden their knowledge, allow

them to better appreciate our contemporary society and help them become more socially literate and aware.

You should develop an understanding of many of the principal themes and general concepts in United States politics, an ability to analyze statistical and historical evidence regarding specific examples, evaluate historical interpretation as well as develop an ability to express historical understanding in writing as well as in speech. We will study typical patterns of political processes and behavior as well as their consequences. Following is a list of some of the issues we will consider.

Unit I: Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government (5-15%) Ch. 1, 2, 3

Unit II: Political Beliefs and Behaviors (10-20%) Ch. 4, 7, 8, 10

Unit III: Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Media (10-20%) Ch. 9, 11, 12

Unit IV: Institutions of National Government (35-45%) Ch. 13, 14, 15, 16

Unit V: Public Policy (5-15%) Ch. 18, 19, 20

Grading

A=89.5%-100%,

B=79.5%-89.49%

C=69.5%-79.49%

D=59.5%-69.49%

F=0%-59.4%

Reading Quizzes ~ 25%

Classwork ~ 25%

Unit Tests and Final Exam ~ 50%

Syllabus Link

Almost all Info is Provided in this Course Profile

Supplemental Information

5 credits

Fulfills high school graduation requirement for Social Science

Fulfills UC/CSU subject area "a" requirement

Weighted Grade