

# AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## Syllabus: Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics

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Course Web site: <http://www.twyman-whitney.com/apgovpol/>

**Main text for this course:** Edwards, Wattenberg, Lineberry, *Government in America: People, Politics and Policy*. Pearson Longman Publishers, 2004. The Companion Website to the main text is located online at Pearson Longman online, [http://wps.ablongman.com/long\\_edwards\\_government\\_11/0,7701,718366-,00.html](http://wps.ablongman.com/long_edwards_government_11/0,7701,718366-,00.html)

### Supplementary resources for this course:

- William Lasser, *Perspectives on American Politics*, Fourth Edition, Houghton Mifflin, 2004.
- Bruce Stinebrickner, *Annual Editions: American Government*, 04/05, Dushkin/McGraw Hill, 2004.
- In addition, you are expected to read articles that your instructor assigns from periodicals and to watch television newscasts and special news events. Current events quizzes will be based on these sources, as will some of the discussions in class.
- If you wish to purchase a “test-prep” booklet for this course that corresponds with the textbook, you might purchase Edwards, Wattenberg, Lineberry, *Preparing for the United States Government AP Exam*, Pearson Longman, 2004 (available online). Otherwise, any of the test preparation booklets by a variety of publishers are available at online and local bookstores.

### Course Content

The Advanced Placement American Government and Politics program is designed to teach American constitutional government based on the principles of our government, interpretation of original documents, political beliefs and behavior, political parties and interest groups, national institutions and policy processes, and law. By the end of second semester, students who complete all of the readings, participate fully in class activities, complete all assigned work, and achieve high scores on all of the quizzes and tests should be fully prepared for success on the AP Government and Politics Examination in the first week of May, 2008.

AP Government and Politics is a highly structured, very demanding college level course. Students are required not only to read thoroughly the college level text, but also to augment this material through research and reading of supplemental articles and then critically apply the findings to the political nature of current governmental policies and analyze the ramification of these policies. One of the primary objectives of this course is to expose students to all areas of information covered on the AP Examination. Thus it is imperative that a high level academic environment exist and that the student is dedicated to learning, is highly motivated, and is willing to put forth both in and outside of the classroom the time and effort required for a course of this intensity.

### Grading Policy

Students' grades will be based on successful completion of assignments, presentation of individual and small group projects to the class, and students' scores on quizzes and tests. Final grades will be based on the percentage of total possible points a student has earned by the end of the semester for assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, and participation in class activities as follows:

A = 90% to 100%, B = 80% to 89%, C = 70% to 79%, D = 60% to 69%, F = 59% or less

### Web Site and Email

A requirement of this class is to make regular use of the course Web site. Class notes, assignments and projects, practice tests, useful links, etc., are all available at the Web site for this course at <http://www.twyman-whitney.com/apgovpol.>

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
Weekly Schedule for the 2009 – 2010 School Year

FIRST SEMESTER, FALL, 2009

Week	Coverage of Content, Required Reading, Activities
August 17 – 21 August 24 – 28 August 31 – Sept. 4	Monday, 8/17 – Ninth grade only, half day early release READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 1, Introduction to Government, pp 1 – 25 Open-book quizzes over Chapter 1 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 1 Vocabulary Test, 9/3, 9/4 (125 points possible) Half day early release, Friday, Sept. 4
September 7 – 11 September 14 – 18 September 21 – 25  6-week grade period ends on Friday, 9/25/09	NO SCHOOL on Monday, Sept. 7, Labor Day READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 2, The Constitution, pp 26 – 63 Open book quizzes over Chapter 2 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 2 Vocabulary Test 9/10 and 9/11 (125 points possible) Constitutional Amendments Test (135 points possible) Six-week test – The Constitution – on September 24 and 25 (200 points possible) CNN Student News quiz, extra credit
Independent Study – <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 3, Federalism, pp 64 – 93. Read, take the practice vocabulary test and chapter test on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Semester Final Exam and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 3, 2010.	
Sept. 28 – Oct. 2 October 5 – 9 October 12 – 16	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 6, Public Opinion and Political Action, pp 172 – 205 Open book quizzes over Chapter 6 (15 points possible X 2) Online Assignment: What’s Your Ideology? Chapter 6 Vocabulary Test, 10/15 and 10/16 NO SCHOOL on Monday, Oct. 12, Staff Development Day
Independent Study - <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 7, Mass Media and the Political Agenda, pp 206 – 235. Read, take the practice vocabulary test and chapter test on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the semester Final Exam and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 3, 2010.	
October 19 – 23 October 26 – 30 November 2 – 6  12-week grade period ends on Friday, 10/30/09	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 8, Political Parties, pp 236 – 265 Open book quizzes over Chapter 8 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 8 Vocabulary Test, 11/5, 11/6 12-week Test, Chapters 6 and 8, 11/5, 11/6 (200 points possible)  Early Release for Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences on Wed/Thurs, on Oct. 29 and 30
Independent Study: <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 9, Nominations and Campaigns, pp 266 – 295. Read, take the practice vocabulary test and chapter test on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Semester Final Exam and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 3, 2010.	
November 9 – 13 November 16 – 20 November 23 – 27	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 10, Elections and Voting Behavior, pp 296 – 321 Open book quizzes over Chapter 10 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 10 Vocabulary Test, 11/23, 11/24 (65 points possible) NO SCHOOL on Wed., Thurs., Fri. Nov. 25 – 27 – Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 30 – Dec. 4 December 7 – 11 December 14 – 18  First Semester ends on Friday., 12/18/2009	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 11, Interest Groups, pp 322 – 351 Open book quizzes over Chapter 11 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 11 Vocabulary Test, 12/10, 12/11 (115 points possible) 18-week test, covers Chapters 10, 11 (200 points possible, date TBA) Final Exam, covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6-11 TBA Last Day of First Semester Friday, December 18, 2009 (half day early release)

SECOND SEMESTER, SPRING, 2010	
Week	Coverage of Content, Required Reading, Activities
January 4 – 8 January 11 – 15 January 18 – 22	Teacher Work Day – Monday, January 4, no classes Second semester classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 5 READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 12, Congress, pp 352 – 389 Open book quizzes over Chapter 12 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 12 Vocabulary Test, 1/21, 1/22 (115 points possible) Half Day Early Release, Friday, Jan. 15, Staff Development NO SCHOOL Monday, January 18, MLK Birthday Holiday
January 25 – 29 Feb. 1 – Feb. 5 February 8 – 12 Fourth 6-week grade period ends on Friday, 2/12/2009	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 13, The Presidency, pp 390 – 433 Open book quizzes over Chapter 13 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 13 Vocabulary Test, 2/4 and 2/5 (80 points possible) Fourth 6-weeks test, covers Chapters 12, 13, on February 11 and 12 (200 points possible)  Half Day early release, Friday, February 12, staff development
Independent Study – READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 14, The Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending, pp 434 – 465. Read, take the practice vocabulary test and chapter test on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Semester Final Exam and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 3, 2010.	
Independent Study - READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 15, The Federal Bureaucracy, pp 466 – 502. Read, take the practice vocabulary test and chapter test on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Semester Final Exam and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 3, 2010.	
February 15 – 19 February 22 – 26 March 1 – 5	NO SCHOOL Monday, February 15, Presidents Day READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 16, The Federal Courts, pp 504 – 541 Open book quizzes over Chapter 16 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 16 Vocabulary Test, March 4 and 5 (145 points possible)
Mar. 8 – 12 March 15 – 19 (Spring Break) March 22 – 26 March 29 – April 2 April 5 – 9 Fifth 6-week grade period ends on Friday, April 9	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 4, Civil Liberties and Public Policy, pp 94 – 133 Open book quizzes over Chapter 4 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 4 Vocabulary Test, March 25 and 26 (230 points possible)  NO SCHOOL, Friday, April 2, staff development READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 5, Civil Rights and Public Policy, pp 134 – 171 Open book quizzes over Chapter 5 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 5 Vocabulary Test, April 1 and 2 (140 points possible) Fifth 6-week Test, covers Chapters 16, 4, 5, on April 8 and 9 (300 points possible)
April 12 – 16 April 19 – 23 April 26 – 30	PU BLIC POLICY PROJECT: RESEARCH AND GROUP PRESENTATIONS READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 17, Economic Policymaking, pp 542 – 563 READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 18, Social Welfare Policymaking, pp 564 – 587 READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 19, Policymaking for Health Care and the Environment, pp 588 – 615 READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 20, National Security Policymaking, pp 616 – 655 Vocabulary Test, Chapters 17 through 20 on April 29 and 30 Half Day Schedule, Early Release, Friday, April 23, staff collaboration
<b>Monday, May 3, 8:00 a.m. – AP U.S. Government and Politics Examination</b>	
May 3 – 7 May 10 – 14 May 17 – 21 May 24 – 28	Half Day Schedule, Early Release, Friday, May 7, District Workshops READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 21, The New Face of State and Local Government, pp 656 – 697 Open book quizzes over Chapter 21 (15 points possible X 2) Chapter 21 Vocabulary Test (60 points possible) SEMESTER FINAL EXAM: TBA

## 2010 Advanced Placement Exams Schedule

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Morning 8 a.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon 12 noon</b>	
Monday, May 3	United States Government and Politics	Comparative Government and Politics French Language	
Tuesday, May 4	Computer Science A Spanish Language	Statistics	
Wednesday, May 5	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Chinese Language and Culture	
Thursday, May 6	English Literature and Composition German Language	Japanese Language and Culture	
Friday, May 7	United States History	European History Studio Art (portfolios due)	
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Morning 8 a.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon 12 noon</b>	<b>Afternoon 2 p.m.</b>
Monday, May 10	Biology Music Theory	Physics B Physics C: Mechanics	Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
Tuesday, May 11	Chemistry Environmental Science	Psychology	
Wednesday, May 12	English Language and Composition	Art History	
Thursday, May 13	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics	
Friday, May 14	Human Geography Spanish Literature	Latin: Vergil	