

# 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, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, 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.
- 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 (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.

The state of Missouri requires by law that each student who is a candidate for graduation from high school must first pass a test in state and federal constitutions. Students in the AP Government and Politics course will take this test. In addition, the North Kansas City School District requires all students in a course in U.S. government to take an End-of-Course examination, and that it be counted as ten percent of the total grade for the second semester of the course. Students in the AP Government and Politics course will take this EOC course, as well.

### 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 2010 – 2011 School Year**

**FIRST SEMESTER, FALL, 2010**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Coverage of Content, Required Reading, Activities</b>
August 16 – 20 August 23 – 27	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 1, Introduction to Government, pp 1 – 25 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 1 Chapter 1 Test
August 30 – Sept. 3 September 6 – 10 September 13 – 17	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 2, The Constitution, pp 26 – 63 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 2 Test – includes Chapter 2, Amendments 1-27 and Clauses & Sections of Constitution
Independent Study – <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 3, Federalism, pp 64 – 93. Read, take the practice tests on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Final Exam in December and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 2, 2011.	
September 20 – 24 Sept. 27 – Oct. 1	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 6, Public Opinion and Political Action, pp 172 – 205 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 6 Assignment: What’s Your Ideology? Chapter 6 Test
Independent Study – <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 7, Mass Media and the Political Agenda, pp 206-235. Read, take the practice tests on your own – this is your responsibility, do not “skip over” this course material, it will be covered on the Final Exam in December and in the Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics Exam on May 2, 2011.	
October 4 – 8 October 11 – 15	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 8, Political Parties, pp 236 – 265 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 8 Chapter 8 Test
October 18 – 22 October 25 – 29	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 9, Nominations and Campaigns, pp 266 – 295 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 9 Chapter 9 Test
November 1 – 5 November 8 – 12	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 10, Elections and Voting Behavior, pp 296 – 321 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 10 Chapter 10 Test
November 15 – 19 November 22 – 26 Nov. 29 – Dec. 3	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 11, Interest Groups, pp 322 – 351 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 11 Chapter 11 Test
December 6 – 10 December 13 – 17	Review for Final Exam Final Exam – covers chapters 1, 2, 3, 6-11 and the U.S. Constitution
Dec. 18 – Jan. 3	Winter Break, no school K-12

**SECOND SEMESTER, SPRING, 2011**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Coverage of Content, Required Reading, Activities</b>
January 4 – 7 January 10 – 14	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 12, Congress, pp 352 – 389 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 12 Chapter 12 Test
January 17 – 21 January 24 – 28	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 13, The Presidency, pp 390 – 433 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 13 Chapter 13 Test
Jan. 31 – Feb. 4 February 7 – 11	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 14, The Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending, pp 434 – 465. Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 14 Chapter 14 Test
February 14 – 18 February 21 – 25	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 15, The Federal Bureaucracy, pp 466 – 502. Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 15 Chapter 15 Test
Feb. 28 – Mar. 4 March 7 – 11	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 16, The Federal Courts, pp 504 – 541 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapter 16 Chapter 16 Test
March 14 – 18	Spring Break, no school K-12
March 21 – 25 March 28 – April 1 April 4 – 8	READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 4, Civil Liberties and Public Policy, pp 94 – 133 READ <i>Government in America</i> : Chapter 5, Civil Rights and Public Policy, pp 134 – 171 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapters 4 and 5 – Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Test includes both Chapters 4 and 5 in the text, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
April 11 – 15 April 18 – 22 April 25 – 29	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 Lecture/discussion/class activities, Chapters 17-20 Test: Chapters 17-20
<b>Monday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. – AP U.S. Government and Politics Examination</b>	
May 2 – 6 May 9 – 13 May 16 – 20	Review for End of Course (EOC) Exam – American Government End of Course (EOC) Exam for American Government (day and date to be announced) SEMESTER FINAL EXAM: TBA Last day of school: Friday, May 20 (half day)