

jennifer.morbitt@pisd.edu
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR AP US GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICS**

Textbook

GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA: PEOPLE, POLITICS, AND POLICY, 16th ed.

By George C. Edwards and Martin Wattenberg

Other

Various supplemental readings provided by teachers.

Supplies

Students must come to class prepared to work. A writing utensil and note pad are required on a daily basis and for in class free response all students will need a tablet of yellow lined letter size legal paper.

Calendars and Course Materials- Required resource

Google Classroom

Classroom.google.com

Login: School user name and password

Click + tab and join the class

Class Code **8szj10**

Course Description

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific contemporary examples. It also requires students to familiarize themselves with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute our political system. Because this course is the equivalent of a college course and in order for students to perform well on the AP National Exam, students must meet the high expectations for the course and share the responsibility for mastery of the course objectives. This involves the careful reading of the textbook, class participation, and collaboration, as well as the knowledge and application of current examples of contemporary American politics.

Requirements

1. **READING:** In order for students to be successful in a college level course, it is essential that students maximize their time through proper organization and time management strategies and complete all assigned reading **prior to class**. The required reading, along with lectures and class discussion, will figure prominently in your formal evaluation on quizzes, examinations, and essays. In addition to the survey text, students will be reading political science journal articles for more in depth perspective on several key topics.
2. **Study Groups:** For the purpose of presentations, peer support, and learning lessons, students will be placed into groups. Group work is a course requirement and it is expected that all students will contribute to the group effort. Establishing a positive attitude and rapport within the groups has been proven to be a key to success and will greatly assist in the management of the amount of reading and work that is required.
3. **RESEARCH:** Students will be required to research campaign management in the United States. Groups will research campaign techniques, advertising, finance

and strategy and present two video campaign advertisements along with a written analysis.

4. **DATA AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:** Throughout the course of the semester, students will be required to analyze various political statistical data. This will include assignments involving the analysis of charts, graphs, political cartoons, and maps. Students will respond to a series of questions with respect to data examined on daily assignments. Students also need to be prepared to deal with data analysis on tests and free response.
5. **EXAMINATIONS:** Formal evaluations may consist of two days of testing which will consist of a 55 question multiple choice test (one day), and at least one free response (one day). The students should be prepared that for each unit they will take tests over two days. The structure of the tests will be similar to that of the AP examination. After the first unit, students must be prepared for the tests to be **comprehensive**, meaning that any information covered during the semester (including current events) will be considered fair game. Also, after the first unit, students may be required to write two 20-minute essays, which, in addition to requiring students to display knowledge of the subject matter, will serve to prepare them for the format of the AP exam.
6. **QUIZZES:** Students will be evaluated over the assigned reading material from the text. These evaluations will consist of 10 to 25 multiple choice questions and will constitute a daily grade. Some quizzes throughout the semester will be over combined chapters and will count as more than one daily grade. Occasionally, students will be quizzed on current events, and will be expected to keep up with events as much as possible. Each of these will count as a daily grade.
7. **GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURE:** All of the unit examinations, along with the research assignment and some of the in-class essays will constitute 75% of each grading period. The free response essays will be graded according to a rubric designed for that topic or assignment. Quizzes over the text, presentations, statistical analysis assignments, discussions, current events and other daily work will constitute the other 25% of a student's grade. A final examination constituting 20% of the semester average is required to all first semester students, and all second semester students who fail to meet the final examination exemption requirements for the course.
The semester final examination shall count 20 percent of the semester grade.
The semester final grade shall be calculated by the following formula: Average = 40% of 1st nine weeks + 40% of 2nd nine weeks + 20% of the semester exam.
8. **MAKE UP PROCEDURES AND TUTORING:** Each student is responsible for their own make up work. Notes and assignments missed due to an absence (excused or unexcused) must be made up on the student's own time and by appointment with the teacher. Work assigned before an absence is due on the day the student returns to class. All other work must be made up within a week of the absence by appointment with the teacher. Tutoring is available every Wednesday morning before school and other times by appointment.