

WELCOME TO



AP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



2014

MR. SWETS

1. EXPECTATIONS

Advanced Placement American Government and Politics is designed to teach U.S. constitutional government based on principles of philosophy, political beliefs and behavior, political parties and interest groups, national institutions and policy processes, and law. Emphasis is given to the relationship between citizens and the structure and function of the American constitutional system. This two-trimester course is designed to enable students to develop a critical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The nature of the American political system, its development over the past two centuries, and how it works today are examined through general concepts and specific case studies.

AP American Government is a highly structured college-level course available to highly motivated juniors and seniors. Students are expected to thoroughly read the college-level text and to augment this material through research and reading of supplemental articles and then to critically apply the findings to the nature of current government policies and analysis of the ramifications of those policies. The primary objective of this class is to expose students to all areas of information covered on the AP Examination.

2. GRADES: Your grade will be based on two components

A. Quizzes or Writing Assignments on Readings and Class Participation (33%)

The vast bulk of homework assignments will be reading. Reading does not mean flipping through the pages, but carefully and thoughtfully and critically reading for understanding. Note taking is strongly encouraged and notes may be used on quizzes.

B. Tests and Projects (67%)

Tests will be given at the end of each unit and will simulate the AP Examination format: 60 multiple choice questions and an essay. Projects may include debate, mock Congress, election simulation, Supreme Court case studies, and a foreign policy crisis.

3. SCALE:

92-100	A	80-81	B-	68-69	D+
90-91	A-	78-79	C+	62-67	D
88-89	B+	72-77	C	60-61	D-
82-87	B	70-71	C-	0-59	F

4. FINAL EXAM

AP American Government is a two semester class. Students who do not complete the entire class will be expected to pass a comprehensive exam in order to receive American Government course credit.

The final exam will be modeled on the AP American Government Test

5. SYLLABUS

A. Textbooks

O'Connor & Sabato: American Government

Various Readings and Cases

We The People

B. Course Outline

1. Foundations of Government
2. Political Parties, Interest Groups and The Media
3. Campaigns, Elections, and Political Behavior
4. Judiciary, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties
5. Congress
6. Presidency and Bureaucracy
7. Public Policy

6. CONTACT

I will be available daily before school.

You may leave a message on my voicemail at 850-6267. School email is swets@ghaps.org