



**AP Government & Politics: U.S. Course Perspective** - This course is intended to be the equivalent of the one-semester college introductory course in United States government and politics. Therefore, the aim of an AP course should be to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory U.S. Government and Politics courses. *It is important to keep in mind the introductory nature of the course.*

**TEXT:**

Brigid Harrison, Jean Harris, Michelle Deardorff, American Democracy Now 4th Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014 ISBN-10: 0078024781 | ISBN-13: 978-0078024788.

**OUTLINE** (This course is 30 weeks. The last three weeks of the year will be devoted to researching and presenting independent study projects.)

**I. POLITICAL THEORY**

A.	Intro: People, Politics & Participation	Chapter 1
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**II. THE CONSTITUTION & FEDERALISM**

A.	The Constitution	Chapter 2
B.	Federalism	Chapter 3

**III. POLITICAL PARTIES, INTEREST GROUPS, AND ELECTIONS**

C.	Political Parties	Chapter 8
D.	Elections, Campaigns and Voting	Chapter 9

**IV. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

A.	Congress	Chapter 12
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**V. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

A.	The Presidency	Chapter 13
B.	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 14

**VI. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

A.	The Judiciary	Chapter 15
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**VII. CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

A.	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
B.	Civil Rights	Chapter 5

**VIII. POLITICAL PARTIES, INTEREST GROUPS, AND ELECTIONS**

A.	Political Socialization & Public Opinion	Chapter 6
B.	Interest Groups	Chapter 7

**IX. PUBLIC POLICY**

A.	Economic Policy	Chapter 16
B.	Domestic Policy	Chapter 17
C.	Foreign Policy & National Security	Chapter 18

**X. LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

A.	State & Local Government	Chapter 19
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## **REVIEW AND PREPARATION FOR THE AP EXAMINATION**

### **FINAL PROJECTS**

#### **INDEPENDENT STUDY** (Length 3 weeks)

Students will select topics related to the course of study to research. Each student will present an individual project to class during examination week in June. The independent study project will be weighted along with the Final Exam 20% of the semester grade. During the Spring Semester, beginning in April, regular review sessions will be scheduled. It is very important that students take advantage of these review opportunities if they wish to be successful on the May 10th exam.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Daily assignments
- Papers
- Projects: individual and group in selected units
- Tests given: chapter, quizzes, semester final or project
- Writing assignments: essay tests (or portions of tests),
- Components of projects, as indicated
- Preparation for the Advanced Placement Test on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **HOW YOUR GRADE IS DETERMINED:**

Grades will be expressed as a percentage of the total possible points for each assignment. Please refer to the Class Guidelines for information with regard to the weight of particular assessments and assignments and to the determination of letter grades. Your grade is calculated by averaging all points scored during a grading period. Each quarter will be weighted 10% and the Final Exam and Independent Study 20% of your grade. A detailed report of each student's grades will be made available periodically.

#### **HOMEWORK:**

- Anticipated 3-4 hours per week (estimated)
- Checked in class daily

#### **MAKE-UP TIME/MAKE-UP WORK:**

I am always glad to speak with you about your grades or any concerns about this class. Call me at 631- 716-8200 (Social Studies Office) or e-mail [teacher@nantonucci.com](mailto:teacher@nantonucci.com)



Sachem East High School  
**AP American Government and Politics**  
Mr. Antonucci  
Course Outline and Reading Assignments | 2015-2016

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

AP American Government and Politics covers material equivalent to an introductory college class. Students will be offered the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement examination in May. The main goals, therefore, of this class are to provide students with the opportunities to participate in a challenging study of American government and at the same time enable students to pursue and receive credit for college-level course work completed at the secondary school level. This course will be a survey of American government.

The textbook for this course will be American Democracy Now 10th Edition by Brigid Harrison, Jean Harris, Michelle Deardorff. In addition to the textbook, students will also be offered the opportunity to purchase a study guide to assist in preparation for regular tests and the national examination given on May 10th 2018. Writing and thinking will be important components of this course. Weekly assignments will be thoughtful, logical, factual and usually relatively short (1 to 3 pages) papers. In addition, daily lessons will include discussions, debates, simulations, and guest speakers.

**Note:** You will be tested after each chapter (or unit) is presented. Tests will be modeled on the format of the AP Exam. A typical test will include a section of multiple-choice questions with five possible answers for each question. Each chapter/unit test will also involve essay writing. The format of the essay is modeled on the AP exam. The essay component can be either a take-home or timed/in class effort [this will be announced]. It is my goal, through test essays to expose students for a variety of possible questions which might appear on the May exam. After each test is graded, class time will be devoted to going over the test, analyzing the answers and discussing test strategy. Regular testing is critical for preparation for the national exam. Understanding the style and format of the test questions is an important skill development for students in this course.

**\*\*Final Project.** The final project for this course will be scheduled during the last weeks of the school year. The final project will consist of two components: (1) a detailed abstract due at the end of the second quarter and (2) an independent study project. The Final Project/ Independent Study will be weighted 20% of your grade in this course. Project information will be made available early in the semester.

### **Special or Ongoing Assignments and Classroom Policies:**

#### **Civil Rights/Civil Liberties:**

**Case Studies:** One activity that has proved very helpful to students in the past is to prepare briefs discussing landmark Supreme Court cases. Each student will select a landmark case from a list provided. We will use a worksheet format. You will be asked to: (1) briefly outline the question before the Supreme Court; (2) discuss the constitutional issue involved (i.e., Amendment 1, protected speech); (3) list the main points of the majority opinion of the Court; and (4) determine the implication of or effect of this decision upon the United States. This brief is presented to the class in a panel discussion format. You will be graded on your knowledge of the assigned case and your ability to discuss in depth beyond merely what is covered in your "brief." Panels will be organized into major topic areas: i.e., cases dealing with Amendment 1, freedom of religion issues. You may select your case in advance if you wish. Each student is required to print a class set of his/her brief for distribution to the class. This is a requirement of your project. The briefs are very helpful for study purposes.

#### **Readings Quizzes:**

To help prepare you for regular chapter tests and, of course, the May 10<sup>th</sup> examination, there will be regular readings quizzes as indicated on the class calendar for selected chapters. The quiz will cover the assigned reading material in our text. Each quiz will be very short and consist of three to five questions. A cumulative average of your quiz grades will be a part of your classroom grade (the weight of a test grade). If you are absent on the day of a readings quiz and your absence is excused, your quiz score for that day will not be part of the final calculation of your "quiz grade." However, if you have an

unexcused absence, your missed quiz will be included in your final calculation and will be scored as a "Zero."

### **Making Up Tests/quizzes**

Students may use 9<sup>th</sup> period to makeup work missed due to excused absences. Tests/quizzes should be made up in a timely manner within five school days. Students will not be able to make up work missed due to unexcused absences (truancy). If a student is truant on a test day, the student will receive a zero for the test.

### **Study Portfolio:**

This is an optional activity that is very valuable and can be customized by the student. A student may organize the portfolio in any manner as long as the portfolio is helpful to the student for his/her study for the AP Exam. It is recommended if you intend to set up a portfolio that you start now. A typical organizational model might be; for example, a section devoted to each chapter, which includes notes, briefs, vocabulary (I will make optional vocabulary lists available to you), chapter tests and essays. If you are a very busy person, as I assume most of you will be, a study portfolio is invaluable.

### **AP Exam:**

I will provide students will information about registration, payment, and procedures for this exam when information becomes available. We will begin studying for the AP Examination in April. A series of coaching sessions will be scheduled. If you wish to do well on the national exam, you must study.

You might also wish to access the College Board site: <http://www.collegeboard.com>. CD tutorials are available to you on my computers in the classroom. An Internet tutorial has been installed on the computers in the Social Studies Resource Room for your convenience. If you decide to use Baron's guide, be forewarned that experience shows that you should not rely solely on this book. Also, I cannot emphasize enough the value of group study. Studies have shown that group study is highly effective. As we progress through Spring Semester, I will open my classroom to you for group study when other teachers are not using it.

### **CLASS GUIDELINES**

1. Regular assignments and projects are to be handed in at the beginning of the class period on the day that the particular project or assignment is due. Assignments that are passed in after the class period are late. Late assignments receive a 50% point deduction.
2. A late project will receive a point deduction of 20% if it is one day late, 30% when received two days late, and 50% when turned in the third day. Projects will not be accepted after the third day.
3. Projects, assignments and tests that are handed in late due to absence will only be accepted for full credit with a verified absence. Projects, assignments and tests delayed because of verified absence must be made up within five school days of the absence. It is the student's responsibility to take responsibility for scheduling.
4. Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines regarding assignments unless I allow an exception.
  - All written work is to be done in pen or typed
  - All assignments are to include the following information
    - Title of assignment
    - Student's full name
    - Date assignment was submitted
    - Course name, period.
  - All assignments are to be legible and neat.
5. This course involves a great deal of discussion and interaction. It is important to create an atmosphere that is comfortable and at the same time engaging. **Students are expected to be courteous to and accepting of the varying opinions of others.**

6. There is a large amount of reading connected with an AP Course. **It is important to be current in your reading assignments.** Any student that has not completed the assigned reading will be given a **ZERO** as a quiz grade. The instructor reserves the right to quiz on assigned readings at any time.
7. Your grade for this course will be based on the following:

**Weighted**

Chapter/Unit Exams	35% points each
Chapter/Unit Reaction Papers/Essay	20% points each
Other regular daily assignments/quizzes	15% points each
Final Project/Independent Study	40% of course grade

9. **Attendance** is an important issue. Be sure to document your absences and check to make sure that school activity related absences are coded Excused.
10. **College Visits.** It has come to many teachers' attention that this activity can be abused. You will need to select your college visit opportunities carefully. You will only be eligible for three (3) absences from this class for college visits. You must also make arrangements ahead of time for your absence.
11. **Lateness** is an important issue. You must be in your seat when class begins. Students coming tardy to class disrupt the class and the result is less time being available for learning. As you may have noticed from the Course Outline we will be moving at a rapid pace. We cannot allow lateness to steal valuable time. A student arriving late to class will be counted as tardy unless he/she has a valid pass from a teacher, staff person or school office. Under the current Attendance Policy I have the option of treating lateness as a discipline issue. Excessive lateness (3 or more per quarter) will result in a referral. Please be considerate and be on time.
12. **Electronic Devices:** The use of mobile devices is *strictly forbidden* during any testing at Sachem High School East. The first time a student is caught using a mobile devices in class during testing will receive a **ZERO** and the device will be taken and returned at the end the period. The second infraction will result in a referral to their Assistant Principal and a **ZERO** will be given. If students must communicate with their parents or guardian, they must first ask permission. Please note: If a student needs to use the restroom during an exam they must place all their **Electronic Devices** on top of their desk, before leaving the classroom.
13. If you have a question or concern, please take the opportunity to visit with me. I am available after school, during my duty period and lunch. Your success in this course is a team effort- the student and the teacher.

**Please do not be indignant when point deductions occur as a result of not following directions.**

 **Return the bottom Portion**

**I have read and understand the Classroom Guidelines of AP US Government & Politics.**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Please Print)**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Student**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent or Guardian**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_