

## **AP United States Government and Politics Pacing Guide**

The curriculum will be taught to standards; not to time. Advanced placement objectives are dictated by the College Board. Academic expectations remain the prerogative of the licensed, qualified educator in the classroom. Many of the concepts are interrelated [CR7]; the curriculum will spiral and refine student understanding of essential questions and enduring understandings throughout the year. The emphasis of the course will be teaching students to expectations that should help them make a seamless transition to college/university civics courses. The course will not be “teaching the test.”

### **Curricular Requirements**

CR1 The course includes the Foundations of American Democracy Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).

CR2 The course includes the Interactions Among Branches of Government Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).

CR3 The course includes the Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).

CR4 The course includes the American Political Ideologies and Beliefs Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).

CR5 The course includes the Political Participation Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).

CR6 The course integrates public policy within each unit.

CR7 The course addresses the big ideas by connecting enduring understandings across one or more units.

CR8 The course provides opportunities to analyze and compare political concepts.

CR9 The course provides opportunities to analyze and interpret quantitative data to explain what the data implies or illustrates about political principles, institutions, processes, and behaviors.

CR10 The course provides opportunities to analyze and interpret qualitative sources (primary and secondary sources including the nine required foundational documents) to explain how they relate to political concepts.

CR11 The course provides opportunities to analyze and interpret visual information to explain how the elements of the visual illustrate

or relate to political principles, institutions, processes, and behaviors.

CR12 The course provides opportunities to apply course concepts and Supreme Court decisions in real-world contexts or scenarios.

CR13 The course provides opportunities to develop an argument in the form of an essay, supported by relevant evidence, about a concept described in the AP US Government and Politics Curriculum Framework.

CR14 Students are provided with an opportunity to engage in a political science research or applied civics project tied to the AP US Government and Politics Curriculum Framework that culminates in a presentation of findings.

CR15 Students are provided opportunities to analyze the 15 required Supreme Court cases as described in the AP US Government and Politics Curriculum Framework and connect them to other non-required landmark cases.

CR16 Students and teachers have access to a college-level United States government and politics textbook.

This AP US Government and Politics course is a year long course taught during a traditional school day schedule. Each class period is 53 minutes long. There are two semesters (four quarters) in each school year.

#### General Pacing Outline

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy (25 days-First Semester)

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government (50 days-Second Semester)

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (30 days-Second Semester)

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs (30 days-First Semester)

Unit 5: Political Participation (35 days-First Semester)

Ten days are left unaccounted for to allow for administrative issues or review.

## AP US Government and Politics General Course Plan

<b>Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy</b>	<b>Primary Unit Focus [CR1]</b>
<p>(25 days) [CR1] — The course includes the Foundations of American Democracy Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).</p>	<p>The philosophical foundations and documents of American democracy, including the Declaration of Independence, social contract theory, republicanism, types of democracy, and the tension between individual liberty and order/safety. (EU LOR-1)</p>
<p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How did the founders of the United States Constitution attempt to protect individual liberty, while also promoting public order and safety?</li> <li>2. How have theory, debate, and compromise influenced the United States constitutional system?</li> <li>3. How does development and interpretation of the Constitution influence policies that impact the citizens of the United States?</li> </ol>	<p>How the Articles of Confederation failed to adequately balance individual liberty and public order/safety, and how the framers wrestled with these questions in drafting the Constitution. (EU LOR-1)</p>
	<p>The compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention and the debate between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists during the ratification debate. (EU CON-1)</p>
	<p>The evolving relationship between the national and state governments, including the grant process, policy issues (ADA, Medicaid, marijuana), and the idea of devolution. (EU CON-1)</p>

<b>Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government</b>	<b>Primary Unit Focus [CR2]</b>
(50 days) [CR2] — The course includes the Interactions Among Branches of Government Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).	The structure of Congress, including significant differences between the chambers regarding organization, leadership, incumbency, and powers. (EU CON-3)
<p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How do the branches of the national government compete and cooperate in order to govern?</li> <li>2. To what extent have changes in the powers of each branch affected how responsive and accountable the national government is in the 21st century?</li> </ol>	Congressional representation and gerrymandering. (EU CON-3)
	The president’s formal and informal powers. (EU CON-4)
	Judicial independence, Federalist No. 78, Marbury v. Madison, and judicial decision-making. (EU CON-5)
	How the bureaucracy operates and its place in the checks and balances system. (EU PMI-1, PMI-2)
	The future of entitlement spending in the United States. (EU CON-3)
<b>Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>	<b>Primary Unit Focus [CR3]</b>
(30 days) [CR3] — The course includes the Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).	The role of the courts, and the due process and equal protection clauses in the expansion of civil liberties and civil rights, including the idea of selective incorporation. (EU LOR-2, CON-5)

<p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent do the US Constitution and its amendments protect against undue government infringement on essential liberties and from invidious discrimination?</li> <li>2. How have US Supreme Court rulings defined civil liberties and civil rights?</li> </ol>	<p>The expansion of the liberties protected by the 1st and 2nd Amendments. (EU LOR-2, CON-5)</p>
	<p>The development of the right to privacy and its implications for reproductive rights and 4th Amendment protections. (EU LOR-3)</p>
	<p>A history of civil rights issues and how historically disadvantaged groups in American society have achieved greater equality and equitable treatment in society. (EU PRD-1, PMI-3)</p>
<p><b>Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs</b></p>	<p><b>Primary Unit Focus [CR4]</b></p>
<p>(30 days) [CR4] — The course includes the American Political Ideologies and Beliefs Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).</p>	<p>Elements of a scientific poll, the different types of polls, and how they are used in United States government and politics. (EU MPA-2, PRD-3)</p>
<p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are American political beliefs formed and how do they evolve over time?</li> <li>2. How do political ideology and core values influence government policy making?</li> </ol>	<p>The basic tenets of American political culture, the conservative and liberal political ideologies, and how these are acquired (political socialization). (EU MPA-1)</p>
<p><b>Unit 5: Political Participation</b></p>	<p><b>Primary Unit Focus [CR5]</b></p>
<p>(35 days) [CR5] — The course includes the Political Participation Unit and addresses all related big ideas (BIs) and enduring understandings (EUs).</p>	<p>The evolution of voting rights and the current state of voter turnout. (EU MPA-3, PMI-3, PMI-5)</p>

<p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How have changes in technology influenced political communication and behavior?</li> <li>2. Why do levels of participation and influence in politics vary</li> <li>3. How effective are the various methods of political participation in shaping public policies?</li> </ol>	<p>Factors that influence voter choice in elections. (EU MPA-3, MPA-1)</p>
	<p>The functions of political parties in the United States and third parties in United States government and politics. (EU PMI-5)</p>
	<p>The development of candidate-centered campaigns. (EU PMI-5, PRD-3)</p>
	<p>The theory of critical elections. (EU PMI-5)</p>
	<p>Interest groups in United States government and politics. (EU PMI-5)</p>
	<p>Nominations, campaigns, and elections in United States government and politics. (EU PRD-2)</p>
	<p>The media as a linkage institution, including changes in media, such as the growth of social media and partisan media sources. (EU PRD-3)</p>

### Enduring Understandings

	CON- Constitutionalism	LOR-Liberty and Order	PRD-Civic Participation and Representative Democracy	PMI-Competing Policy-making Interests	MPA-Methods of Political Analysis
	CON-1 The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government,	LOR-1 A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.	PRD-1: The Fourteenth Amendment’s equal protection clause as well as other constitutional provisions have often been used to support the advancement of equality.	PMI-1 The Constitution created a competitive policy-making process to ensure the people’s will is represented and that freedom is preserved.	MPA-1 Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change.
	CON-2 Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments	LOR-2 Provisions of the U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.	PRD-2 The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.	PMI-2 The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.	MPA-2 Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.
	CON-3 The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch	LOR-3 Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties	PRD-3 The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically.	PMI-3 Public policy promoting civil rights is influenced by citizen–state interactions and constitutional interpretation over time.	MPA-3 Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.

	CON-4 The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.			PMI-4 Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies	
	CON-5 The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.			PMI-5 Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy-makers.	
	CON-6 The Supreme Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them.				