

AP US GOVERNMENT

The AP U.S. Government & Politics course is constructed for students to increase their understanding of the foundations, principles, and operation of the United States government. The course focuses on the following topics:

- I. Foundations of American Democracy
- II. Interaction Among Branches of Government
- III. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- IV. American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
- V. Political Participation

This course is rigorous, and students are expected to keep up with the course load as the school year progresses. Students can expect substantial reading assignments from a variety of sources every week. Classes will center on discussions and analysis of assignments and material presented in class, so good attendance and careful reading are essential. As with any college-level course, students should strive to clearly express their understanding (and questions) orally and in writing. Students are also expected to keep up with current events and to pay attention to the news daily. Analysis of current events will help students make connections and enhance understanding.

Learn more from College Board: [AP United States Government Course](#)

No Prerequisites

- While it is helpful for students to enter the course able to read a college textbook, it is not required

Important to Know

- APUSH is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course
- Students take AP Exam in May
- Normally a 3 out of 5 earns college credit

Instructional Approaches

- Learning by doing
- Small group work
- Socratic seminars
- Projects
- Writing-intensive
- Self-reflection
- Timely feedback
- Preparation for AP Exam-specific tasks

AP Classroom resources: [APUSGOV](#)



Contact GLWalsh@fcps.edu for more information.

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Homework Expectations

- Students are expected to read the textbook before class, as well as any supplemental reading assignments
- Projects, seminars, etc. as assigned

Skills

- Reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources.
- Writing DBQ and short/long-essay responses.
- Use of Historical Thinking Skills (compare and contrast, causation, change and continuity over time)
- Learning to debate in various formats
- Participating in discussions, seminars, and projects.
- Managing time effectively to meet deadlines and prepare for the AP exam.

What are the AP Assessments for this class?

<p>Summative Assessments 70%</p> <p>Tests, quizzes, essays, and projects, and seminars</p>	<p>Formative Assessments 30%</p> <p>Classwork and homework</p>	<p>AP Exam</p> <p><u>Section I:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ MCQ 80 min-50% of score <p><u>Section II (1h40min 50% of exam):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ 4 Questions-Concept application-Quantitative Analysis-SCOTUS comparison-Argument Essay
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