

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PLANNED INSTRUCTION**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Course Title:** AP Government and Politics

**Course Number:** 00151

**Course Prerequisites:** None, but see course description

**Course Description:**

AP Government & Politics is an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with an emphasis on the history that has shaped how our government works. This course is not only intended to prepare students to take the AP exam, but to give a well rounded insight into how American government affects our lives today. It is recommended that students who take this course have achieved a final average of at least 80 percent in their previous college prep or AP course.

**Suggested Grade Level:** 12

**Length of Course:**      One Semester        x        Two Semesters      Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Units of Credit:** 1 (Insert *NONE* if appropriate.)

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certification(s)**  
secondary social studies

**Certification verified by WCSO Human Resources Department:**

Yes No

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, Materials:**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Publisher:**

ISBN #:

**Copyright Date:**

**Date of WCSD Board Approval:**

**BOARD APPROVAL:**

**Date Written:** October 2010

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

**Suggested Supplemental Materials:**

none

**Course Standards**

**PA Academic Standards:**

**PA Academic Standards addressed:**

**5.1 Principles and Documents of the Government**

- C. Analyze the principles and ideals that shape government.
- D. Interpret significant changes in the basic document shaping the government of Pennsylvania.
- E. Analyze the basic document shaping the government of the U.S.
- F. Contrast the individual rights created by the Pennsylvania Constitution and those created by the Constitution of the U.S.
- H. Explain and interpret the roles of framers of basic documents of government from a national and Pennsylvania perspective.
- I. Explain the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government and explain the advantages and disadvantages.
- L. Interpret Pennsylvania and U.S. court decisions that have impacted their principles and ideals of government.
- M. Interpret the impact of famous speeches and writings on civic life.

**5.2 Rights and Responsibilities**

- C. Analyze skill used to resolve conflicts in society and government.
- D. Analyze political leaders and public service in a republican form of government.
- E. Explain the importance of the political process for participation in civic life.

**5.3 How Government Works**

- A. Explain the structure and organization and operation of the local, state, and national government including domestic and national policy-making.
- B. Compare the responsibilities and powers of the three branches within the national government.
- E. Explain how citizens participate in choosing their leaders through political parties, campaigns, and elections.
- F. Explain the election process.
- H. Analyze how interest groups provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process.
- K. Identify and explain systems of government.

**5.4 How International Relationships Function**

- A. Explain how the U.S. is affected by policies of nations- states, governmental and nongovernmental organization.
- B. Explain the role of the U.S. in world affairs.
- C. Contrast how the three branches of federal government function in foreign policy.

## **6.1 Economic Systems**

C. Explain how economic indications reflect changes to economy.

D. Describe historical examples of expansion, recession, and depressions in the U.S.

## **6.2 Markets and the Function of Government**

B. Analyze how the number of consumers and production affect the level of competition within a market.

D. Analyze the functions of economic institutions

H. Analyze the economic roles of government in market economies.

L. Explain how the price of one currency is related to the price of another.

## **6.3 Scarcity and Choices**

A. Describe the way to deal with scarcity.

## **6.4 Economic Interdependence**

A. Explain why specialization may lead to increased production and consumption.

B. Explain how trade may improve a standard of living.

C. Explain why government sometimes restricts or subsidizes trade.

D. Explain how locations of resources, transportation, communication, and technology have affect U.S. economic patterns

G. Describe geographic patterns of economic activities in the U.S.

## **6.5 Work and Earning**

A. Identify and explain the characteristics of the three types of businesses.

## **7.1 Basic Geography Literacy**

A. Explain geographic tools and their uses.

B. Explain and locate places and regions.

## **7.2 The Physical Characteristics of Places and Regions**

A. Explain the physical characteristics of places and regions including spatial pattern.

## **7.3 The Human Characteristics of Places and Regions**

A. Explain the human characteristics of places and regions by their population characteristics.

B. Explain the human characteristics of places and regions by their cultural characteristics.

C. Explain the human characteristics of places and regions by their settlement characteristics.

D. Explain the human characteristics of places and regions by their economic activities.

## **7.4 Interaction Among People and Places**

A. Explain the impacts of physical systems on people.

B. Explain the impacts of people on physical systems.

## **History**

### **8.1 Historical Analysis and Skills Development**

A. Analyze chronological thinking

B. Analyze and interpret historical sources.

C. Analyze the fundamentals of historical interpretation

D. Analyze and interpret historical research.

### **8.2 Pennsylvania History**

A. Analyze the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups in Pennsylvania 1787 -1914.

B. Identify and analyze primary document material, artifacts, and historical sites important in Pennsylvania history 1787-1914.

C. Identify and analyze how continuity and change have influenced Pennsylvania history 1787-1914.

D. Identify and analyze conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations in Pennsylvania history 1787-1914.

### **8.3 United States History**

A. Identify and analyze the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to U.S. history for 1787-1914.

B. Identify and analyze the primary documents, material artifacts, and historical sites important to U.S. history.

C. Analyze how continuity and change has influenced U.S. history 1787-1914.

D. Identify and analyze conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations in U.S. history.

### **8.4 World History**

A. Analyze the significance of individuals and groups who made major political and cultural contributions to the world before 1500.

B. Analyze the historical documents, material artifacts and historical sites important to world history before 1500.

C. Analyze how continuity and change throughout history has impacted belief system and religions, commerce, industry, innovations, settlement patterns, social organizations, transportation and role of women.

D. Analyze how conflict and cooperation among social groups and organizations impact world history through 1500.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

**PSSA Assessment Anchors Addressed: The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Assessment Anchors and/or Eligible Content and incorporate them into this planned instruction. Current assessment anchors can be found at [pde@state.pa.us](http://pde@state.pa.us).**

### Suggested Formative Assessments:

- Pre-assessments of prior knowledge (e.g. entrance cards or KWL chart)
  - Discussions
  - Projects
  - Teacher observation
  - Graphic organizers (e.g. Venn diagrams, word mapping, webbing, KWL chart, etc.)
  - Summarizing
  - Debate
  - Writing prompts
  - Note taking
  - Problem-based learning modules
  - Open-ended written response
  - Quizzes /tests
  - Essays

### Suggested Summative Assessments:

- Student presentations/projects
- Essays
- Quizzes/tests

**Portfolio Assessment:**        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      x   No

**District-wide Final Examination Required:**          x   Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Course Challenge Assessment (Describe):**

Does not apply.

## **REQUIRED COURSE SEQUENCE AND TIMELINE**

1. The American System (6-7 weeks)

I) The Study of American Government

II) The Constitution

III) Federalism

IV) American Political Culture

2. Opinions, Interests, and Organizations (7-8 weeks)

I) Public Opinion

II) Political Participation

III) Political Parties

IV) Elections and Campaigns

V) Interest Groups

VI) The Media

3. Institutions of Government (6-7 weeks)

I) Congress

II) The Presidency

III) The Bureaucracy

IV) The Judiciary

4. The Politics of Public Policy (7-8 weeks)

I) The Policy Making Process

II) Economic policy

III) Social Welfare

IV) Civil Liberties

V) Civil Rights

VI) Foreign/ Military Policy

VII) Environmental Policy

5. The Nature of American Democracy (1 week)

Who Governs? To What Ends? Pulling it together.

AP TEST PREPARATION (1 week)

### **Objectives:**

- know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics
- understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles

used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures)

- be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats)
- be able to critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum

**WRITING TEAM:** Jim Penley, Jim Morrison

### WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION

1. Is there a required final examination? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does this course issue a mark/grade for the report card? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does this course issue a Pass/Fail mark? ☐ Yes ☒ No
4. Is the course mark/grade part of the GPA calculation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
5. Is the course eligible for Honor Roll calculation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
6. What is the academic weight of the course?  
☐ No weight/Non credit ☐ Standard weight  
☒ Enhanced weight