

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title: AP American Government & Politics

Course Number: 00151

Course Prerequisites: None (but strongly recommended that students successfully complete US History I CP with an 85% or better)

Course Description: AP United State Government and 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 85 percent in their College Prep US History I course.

Suggested Grade Level: Grades 11-12

Length of Course: Two Semesters

Units of Credit: 1

PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:

CSPG 59 Social Studies

CSPG 35 Citizenship Education

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](#)

Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department: ☒ Yes ☐ No

WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION

Course Level: AP (1) GPA +10%

Mark Types: Check all that apply.

☒ F – Final Average ☒ MP – Marking Period ☒ EXM – Final Exam

GPA Type: ☐ GPAEL-GPA Elementary ☐ GPAML-GPA for Middle Level ☒ NHS-National Honor Society

☒ UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average ☒ GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

State Course Code: 04157

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](#), download the Excel file for SCED, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and choose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

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TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:

Title: American Government: Stories of Our Nation
Publisher: Bedford, Freeman, and Worth
ISBN #: 9781319275655
Copyright Date: 2019
WCSD Board Approval Date: 2019

Supplemental Materials: Foundational Documents and Court Cases Reader for American Government: Stories of Our Nation; College Board website

Curriculum Document

WCSD Board Approval:

Date Finalized: 5/23/2022
Date Approved: 6/13/2022
Implementation Year: 2022/2023

SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

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PLANNED INSTRUCTION

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT AND CONCEPTS

Marking Period 1

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

Marking Period 2

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government

Marking Period 3

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Marking Period 4

Unit 5: Political Participation

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PLANNED INSTRUCTION

Standards/Eligible Content and Skills

Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution	5.1.12.C RH.11-12.1,2,4 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP1
Explain how models of representative democracy are visible in major institutions, policies, events, or debates in the U.S	5.1.12.B RH.11-12.1-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,8,9	MP1
Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents	5.1.12.B,C,D RH.11-12.1-4,6,8,9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP1
Explain the relationship between key provisions of the Articles of Confederation and the debate over granting the federal government greater power formerly reserved to the states	5.1.12.B,D RH.11-12.1,2,4,9 WHST.12-12.2,8,10	MP1
Explain the ongoing impact of political negotiation and compromise at the Constitutional Convention on the development of the constitutional system	5.1.12.B,D RH.11-12.2,4,7-9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP1
Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances.”	5.1.12.D 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP1
Explain the implications of separation of powers and “checks and balances” for the U.S. political system	5.1.12.D 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP1
Explain how societal needs affect the constitutional allocation of power between the national and state governments	5.1.12.A,B RH.11-12.2,4 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP1
Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time	5.1.12.D RH.11-12.1-4,6,8,9 WHST.12-12.2,8,9	MP1
Explain how the distribution of powers among three federal branches and between national and state governments impacts policy making	5.1.12.A,D 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP1
Describe the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how the structure, powers, and functions of both houses of Congress affect the policy-making process	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.A-D RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.D,E,G,H RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how the president can implement a policy agenda	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.B,C 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how the president’s agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C,J RH.11-12.1-4,6,8,9 WHST.12-12.2,8,9,10	MP2
Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C 5.4.12.B	MP2

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
	RH.11-12.1-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,8,10	
Explain how communication technology has changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and the other branches	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C,H RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments	5.1.12.A,B 5.2.12.B,C 5.3.12.F RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.2,4,8,10	MP2
Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to debate about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.1,2,4-10	MP2
Explain how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court's power	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.A RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,9	MP2
Explain how the bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of the federal government	5.1.12.A 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,9	MP2
Explain how the federal bureaucracy uses delegated discretionary authority for rule making and implementation	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how Congress uses its oversight power in its relationship with the executive branch	5.1.12.D 5.2.12.C RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how the president ensures that executive branch agencies and departments carry out their responsibilities in concert with the goals of the administration	5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C 5.4.12.C RH.11-12.2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain the extent to which governmental branches can hold the bureaucracy accountable given the competing interests of Congress, the president, and the federal courts	5.1.12.A 5.2.12.C 5.3.12.C RH.11-12.1-4,7-9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP2
Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual liberties and rights	5.1.12.E RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.2,4-10	MP3
Describe the rights protected in the Bill of Rights	5.1.12.C,E 5.2.12.A RH.11-12.1,2,4,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9,10	MP3
Explain the extent to which the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First and Second Amendments reflects a commitment to individual liberty	5.1.12.A,C 5.3.12.F RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.2,4-10	MP3
Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety	5.2.12.B 5.3.12.F RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.2,4-10	MP3
Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation	5.1.12.A,C,D,E 5.2.12.A,C,D RH.11-12.1-5,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP3
Explain the extent to which states are limited by the due process clause from infringing upon individual rights	5.1.12.D,E 5.2.12.A RH.11-12.1-4,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP3

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Explain how constitutional provisions have supported and motivated social movements	5.1.12.A,C,E 5.2.12.D 5.3.12.D RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,8,9,10	MP3
Explain how the government has responded to social movements	5.2.12.B 5.3.12.J RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP3
Explain how the Court has at times allowed the restriction of the civil rights of minority groups and at other times has protected those rights	5.1.12.D,E 5.3.12.F,J RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,4,8,9	MP3
Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government	5.1.12.C,F 5.2.12.B,D RH.11-12.1-10 WHST.12-12.1,2,4-10	MP3
Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization	5.2.12.B 5.3.12.D,G,H RH.11-12.1-4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP3
Describe the elements of a scientific poll	5.3.12.H RH.11-12.2,4,5,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP3
Explain the quality and credibility of claims based on public opinion data	5.3.12.D,G,H RH.11-12.2-5,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP3
Explain how ideologies of the two major parties shape policy debates	5.3.12.D RH.11-12.1-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP3
Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time	5.1.12.F 5.2.12.D 5.3.12.D,G,H RH.11-12.2-4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,4,8-10	MP3
Describe different political ideologies on the role of government in regulating the marketplace	5.3.12.A,B RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP3
Explain how political ideologies vary on the government's role in regulating the marketplace	5.3.12.B,C,D RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP3
Explain how political ideologies vary on the role of the government in addressing social issues	5.3.12.B,C,D RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP3
Explain how different ideologies impact policy on social issues	5.2.12.B 5.3.12.B,C,D RH.11-12.1-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,4,7,9	MP3
Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation	5.1.12.A,E 5.2.12.A 5.3.12.C,F RH.11-12.1-4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Describe different models of voting behavior	5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections	5.1.12.E 5.2.12.A,D 5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2-4,6-9 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Describe linkage institutions	5.3.12.D,G,H RH.11-12.2,4 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government	5.3.12.D,G,H RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4

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Performance Indicator	PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content	Marking Period Taught
Explain why and how political parties change and adapt	5.3.12.D RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain how structural barriers impact third-party and independent candidate success	5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest-group influence on elections and policy making	5.3.12.G RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making	5.3.12.D,G RH.11-12.1,2,4,7,9 WHST.12-12.2,7	MP4
Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes	5.3.12.D RH.11-12.1-5,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,10	MP4
Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election	5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain how the Electoral College facilitates and/or impedes democracy	5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain how the different processes work in U.S. congressional elections	5.3.12.E RH.11-12.2-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process	5.3.12.D,E RH.11-12.2-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process	5.3.12.D RH.11-12.1-4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain the media's role as a linkage institution	5.3.12.D,H RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4
Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior	5.3.12.D,H RH.11-12.2,4,7 WHST.12-12.2,7,9	MP4

ASSESSMENTS

PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content: The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

Formative Assessments: The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

Effective formative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:

- Journal Entry
- Entry/Exit Ticket
- Thinking Map
- Verbal Explanation
- Observation
- Artifacts
- Reflection/Summary
- Quiz

Summative Assessments: The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

Effective summative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:

- Marking Period Assessment/Final Exam
- Writing a Paper/Essay
- Performance Tasks
- Project
- Tests
- Portfolio