

AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS Spring 2018

Instructor: Kevin Hight; B.A. and M.A. in Political Science

Main Text: *American Government: Continuity and Change* O'Connor and Sabato

Supplemental readings: The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, 2nd ed., Serow and Ladd, as well as primary source material such as the Federalist Papers, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other relevant founding documents. We will also use other sources from news and magazines. You should subscribe to a newspaper and newsmagazine of your choice. You will have periodic readings from these sources.

E-mail: RobertHight@ccs.k12.nc.us for you and your parents to communicate with me, or call me at 484-1151 x220 and leave a message on my voice mail. I check it often and will return calls as soon as possible.

We will remind.com (text the message @f76e4b to 81010)...class name is AP GOPO 18 All AP Government students and their parents must log onto the AP Government Edmodo page. The title is AP Government 2018 Spring, and the password is f3xq64 . You must be signed in by Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

AP EXAM- Thursday, May 10, 2018 -8 AM- You are required to take it.

Grades: Tests and quizzes are important, but not the only measure of knowledge and comprehension. Tests will always include 1-2 analytical and interpretive free-response questions from old AP exams as a means of measuring understanding and developing comprehensive writing skills. Throughout the course students will be required to analyze various political data. This will include skill-building exercises in the computer lab using software and Internet resources. Students will respond to a series of questions on this data. These assignments will constitute a quiz grade. There will be a lot more reading and writing this year. You **MUST** read the textbook! ***All work should be your own!***

Grading Policy: Tests/Projects 60%, Quizzes 30% and Classwork/Homework/Participation 20%

Test Days: Tuesdays and Fridays- quizzes can be any day

Attendance: You are expected to be present and punctual everyday. Long-term assignments are due on the day they are due and **will not** be accepted at any other time. This means you must find a way to get it here. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT WHAT WENT ON IN CLASS WHILE YOU WERE ABSENT. IF YOU MISSED A SCHEDULED OR ANNOUNCED TEST YOU MUST MAKE IT UP THE 1ST DAY BACK. Make up tests will be essay or short answer, not multiple choice.**

Service Learning Project – Not available this semester: To better understand the process of government and politics, students will complete 40 hours of political community service throughout the 1st semester. Ideas include: campaigning for a candidate, organizing a voter registration drive, attending a candidates' forum with friends and family, working the polls on Election Day, and attending local government meetings (school board, City Council, commissioners). Students must submit a minimum of one typed page per event to include the activity, student's learning and verification of attendance. Students are encouraged to seek out other opportunities and share them with other students. **ALL activities MUST be approved by me or they won't count!** Verification forms are located on the Edmodo page.

Media Notebook Project: Notebook-Due **May 31, 2018**. Must include political science/government related materials in the following formats:

- a) handwritten summaries of guests and topics presented on 2 news or political talk shows per month (total 10)
- b) handwritten summaries and original copies of 8 newspaper articles per month (total 40)

- c) handwritten summaries and original copies of 2 news magazine or political science journal articles per month (total 10)
- d) 4 editorial cartoons, with explanations, and 2 editorials from either papers or magazines, with your comments, per month (totals 20 cartoons, 10 editorials)
- e) a review of 2 political web sites each month with the opening page of the site- you may not use the same site twice (total 10)

All articles editorials and cartoons MUST be ORIGINALS. Nothing may be photocopied!

Course Outline:

Students successfully completing this course will:

- ◆ 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

1st Quarter

I. Constitutional Underpinnings of American Democracy

- A. Federalism
- B. Separation of Powers
- C. Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution.

Textbook Chapters 1-3; Lanahan Readings (Constitution) 10-12, 14, (Federalism) 20, 21, 23

II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors of Individuals

- A. Beliefs citizens hold about their government and its leaders
- B. Processes by which citizens learn about politics
- C. The nature, sources and consequences of public opinion
- D. The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life
- E. The variety of factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of their political beliefs and behaviors

Textbook Chapters 6-7; Lanahan Readings (Public Opinion) 48, 49, 51 (Voting) 60-63

III. Political Parties and Interest Groups: Mechanisms facilitating the communication or interests and preferences of like-minded citizens

- A. Political parties and elections
 - 1. Functions Organization
 - 2. Historical Development
 - 3. Effects on political process

Textbook Chapters 8-9; Lanahan Readings (Parties) 65,66,69,70 (Media) 72-74

2nd Quarter

- B. Interest groups (including PACs)
 - 1. The range of interests that are or are not represented
 - 2. The activities of interest groups
 - 3. The effects of interest groups on the political process

Textbook Chapter 10; Lanahan Readings 53, 55, 56, 58

IV. The Institutions of Government and Policy Process (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, as well as the Bureaucracy)

- A. The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of power
- B. Relationships among these four institutions
- C. Links between these institutions and political parties, interest groups, the media, subnational governments and public opinion
- D. Policy making in a federal system
- E. Policy processes and outputs

Textbook chapters 11-12; Lanahan Readings (Congress) 25,26,30,31, (The Presidency) 33-35

3rd Quarter

IV. Continued

Textbook chapters 13-14; Lanahan Readings (The Bureaucracy) 38-40, (The Judiciary) 42-44, 46

V. Public Policy

- A. Policy making in a federal system
- B. The formation of policy agendas
- C. The role of institutions in the enactment of policy
- D. The role of the bureaucracy and the courts in policy implementations and interpretation
- E. Connections between policy processes and the following:
 - 1. Political institutions and federalism
 - 2. Political parties
 - 3. Interest groups
 - 4. Public opinion
 - 5. Elections
 - 6. Policy networks
- F. Development and implementation of public policy in the areas of foreign affairs, welfare, education and energy.

Textbook chapters 15-17; Lanahan Readings 84-87, 90, 92, 93

4th Quarter

VI. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- A. The development of civil liberties and civil rights by law and judicial interpretation
 - 1. First Amendment freedoms
 - 2. The rights of the accused
 - 3. Minority groups and women's rights

Textbook chapters 4-5; Lanahan Readings (civil liberties) 75-77, (civil rights) 82, 83, 88

AP Exam Review

CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE USED IN THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT MR. HIGHT'S PERMISSION. IF A STUDENT BRINGS ONE IT MUST BE PLACED ON THE TABLE AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. IT MAY BE RETRIEVED AT THE END OF CLASS. NEITHER MR HIGHT NOR FTS ASSUMES ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOST, STOLEN, MISPLACED OR DAMAGED DEVICES. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS RULE COULD RESULT IN A ZERO (0) GRADE FOR THAT DAY'S GRADED ACTIVITY.

Parent Signature attesting to having read and understood this policy & syllabus.

_____ Date _____

Student Signature attesting to having read and understood this policy & syllabus.

_____ Date _____