

AP Government Calendar 2016- 2017

September/October

Unit 1: Constitutional Foundations of the US Government

Text Chapters 1-3

Other Readings and Materials:

U.S. Constitution; *Federalist #10*; *Federalist #51*; *McCulloch v. Maryland*; *Gibbons v. Ogden*; *Marbury v. Madison*, *Wickert v. Filbert*, 1942.

Topics: Roots of American Government and Democracy; Conflict between power of government and rights of the people; Conflict between power of federal and state governments; comparison of formal and informal constitutional powers and change in government both formal and informal

Key Terms: democracy, direct/participatory democracy, representative democracy, bureaucrat/bureaucracy, pluralism, unalienable rights, the Enlightenment, Articles of Confederation, Framers of the Constitution, Constitutional Convention, Great Compromise, bicameral house, judicial review, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, Federalists, Anti - Federalists, *Federalist Papers*, writ of habeas corpus, bill of attainder, ex post facto law, supremacy clause, enumerated powers: expressed/explicit, Bill of Rights, privacy rights, amendment, amendment process, 14th Amendment, due process, line item veto, sovereignty, Interstate commerce (commerce clause), unitary system, federal system, elastic “necessary and proper” clause, revenue sharing, mandates

Projects/Assessments

Summer Current Events Assignment

Constitution Outline/Free Response Question

October/November

Unit 2: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Mass Media

Text Chapters 8-10

Topics: Political Parties; the electoral college; difference between electoral system and the Electoral College; fundamental goals of political parties and interest groups and how they achieve those goals; internal structure of political parties; third parties, their influence on national politics and the major parties; divided government amongst political parties

Key Terms: political party, divided government, national convention, national committee, congressional campaign committee, national chairman, political machine, ideological party, sponsored party, two party system, Republican Party, Democratic Party, independents, third party, plurality system, nominations, plurality, crossover voting, primary election, winner take all, caucus, Iowa caucus, incumbent, political action committee(PAC), franking, position issue, general election, closed primary, open

primary, blanket primary, runoff election, presidential primary, New Hampshire primary, mid – term election, horserace, soft money, campaign finance regulation, retrospective voting, critical or realigning periods, split ticket, straight ticket, office bloc ballot, party column ballot, presidential vs. congressional campaigns, Electoral College, lobbying and lobbyists, interest groups, NAACP, Sierra Club, American Medical Association (AMA), AARP, National Rifle Association (NRA), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), litigation, ideological interest groups, public interest lobby, bias, political cues and ratings, sound bite, trial balloon, loaded language, equal time rule, right of reply rule, political editorializing rule, television markets, watchdog, routine stories, feature stories, insider stories, adversarial press, news leaks, political press, popular press, the internet

Projects/Assessments

Political Spectrum Computer Activity
Political Party Platform Analysis

November/December

Unit 3: Political Beliefs, Behaviors, and Culture

Text Chapters 6-7

Topics: The political spectrum and political beliefs of American citizens; the process of learning political beliefs; influence on public opinion; political ideology, voting, participation and non-participation among individuals and groups; factors that influence political beliefs and behaviors

Key Terms: ideology, civic duty and competence, silent majority, polls and sampling, sampling error, liberal, conservative, libertarianism, populism, voting behavior, voting age population, registered voters, 17th Amendment, suffrage, literacy tests, poll taxes, grandfather clauses, white primary, state/federal control of voting practices, activism, voter turnout, Voting Rights Act of 1965, 26th Amendment, Motor Voter Law of 1993

Projects/Assessments

Creating a Poll/Polling project and presentation
Tea Party/Occupy Wall Street Comparison
Black Lives Matter Movement Analysis

January/February

Unit 4: Institutions of National Government

Text Chapters 11-14

Other Readings and Materials:

U.S. Constitution; *Federalist #78*; *Marbury v. Madison*

Topics: Specific and unique powers of the bicameral legislature; Conflict between the Presidency and Congress and the intent of the framers of the constitution; formal and informal arrangements of power; the ramifications of divided government; relationships and linkages among the institutions: Congress, Presidency, Judiciary; the relationship between the Presidency and the role of the Electoral College; budgetary power of the

Congress (Article I, Section 8); key standing committees of Congress; fiscal policy of taxing, spending and borrowing; specific factual duties of the federal bureaucracy; limited v. broad authority of the federal bureaucracy

Key Terms: bicameral legislature, the House and Senate, composition and party structure of Congress, filibuster, reapportionment, redistricting, at – large/single member districts, gerrymandering, majority/minority leader, whip, congressional caucus, committees, public vs. private bill, resolutions, rider, quorum, cloture, super majority, pork barrel legislation, franking privilege, perks, cabinet, veto, pocket veto, line item veto, legislative veto, impeachment, lame duck, gridlock, executive privilege, the role of the Vice President, discretionary authority, bureaucracy, the buddy system, authorization legislation, appropriation, trust fund, red tape, Supreme Court, judicial review, strict constructionist approach, loose constructionist (activist approach), district court, court of appeals, legislative court, litmus test, civil vs. criminal law, writ of certiorari, in forma pauperis, plaintiff, sovereign immunity, class action suit, brief, amicus curiae, per curiam opinion, concurring vs. dissenting opinion, stare decisis, remedy, divided government, checks and balances, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Reserve System, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Projects/Assessments

Presidential Primaries Activity

Presidential Candidate Research Project

February/March

Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Text Chapters 4-5

Other Readings and Materials:

U.S. Constitution (Bill of Rights, 14th Amendment); *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Baker v. Carr*, *Bakke*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Engel v. Vitale*, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, *Reynolds v. U.S.*, *Oregon v. Smith*

Topics: Difference between natural rights and citizenship rights as they relate to individual rights; compare selective incorporation to incorporation of the Bill of Rights into state constitutions; how the incorporation process relates to due process and the 14th Amendment; how specific Supreme Court cases tie into the amendments, i.e. the First Amendment and privacy rights, freedom of religion and the rights of criminal defendants; the development of civil rights and civil liberties by judicial interpretation

Key Terms: civil liberties, individual rights, natural rights, citizenship rights, Bill of Rights, freedom of expression, privacy rights, freedom of religion, clear and present danger test, due process, criminal defendant, 14th Amendment, clause, slander, libel, obscenity, symbolic speech, free exercise clause, wall of separation principle, search and seizure, search warrant, probable cause, self - incrimination, civil rights, Jim Crow Laws, discrimination, prejudice, separate but equal doctrine, integration, *de jure* segregation, *de facto* segregation, civil disobedience, abortion, affirmative action, reverse discrimination, equality of results vs. equality of opportunity

Projects/Assessments

Supreme Court Case/Civil Rights and Liberties Research Assignment

March/April

Unit 6: Public Policy

Text Chapters 15-17

Topics: The implementation of domestic policy; formation of policy agendas, institutions and policy making; what does the federal bureaucracy seek to accomplish; how the bureaucracy implements policy; how the bureaucracy receives funds for operation and implementation; U.S. domestic policy and the environment, guns, disability, campaign finance reform, entitlement programs, i.e. Social Security; divided government along party lines, weak political party discipline; the role of the bureaucracy and the judiciary in relation to policy interpretation and implementation

Key Terms: political agendas, costs and benefits, interest group politics, pork barrel projects, reciprocity/logrolling, specialization, business regulation, monetarism, Keynesian economics, domestic policy, price and wage controls, supply side economics, Reaganomics, fiscal policy, taxation and spending, mandatory spending, discretionary spending, block grants, categorical grants, budget deficit, budget surplus, monetary policy, the Federal Reserve, budget resolution, federal mandates, entitlements, eligibility, insurance programs, assistance programs, Social Security, Medicare, means testing, offsets, the President and foreign policy, military – industrial complex, international trade, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Clean Air Act of 1970, War Powers Resolution of 1973, Americans With Disabilities Act (1990); Welfare Reform Act of 1996, *U.S. v. Curtis Wright (1936)*

Projects/Assessments

Public Policy research paper

April/May

Course Review and Exam Preparation

May/June

Final Project and Current Issues/Topics