

SYLLABUS

Course: AP American Government + Politics
Las Vegas AP Summer Institute

Instructor: David La Shomb

Course Description: This course is designed to give inexperienced and experienced teachers the tools necessary to develop an Advanced Placement American Government and Politics course in the public or private school setting. Instructors will be provided the scope and sequence of this course as designed by the College Board committee; analyze proper textbook and supplementary materials; evaluate course examination requirements; and develop curriculum enrichments in facilitating a college level program. Students will also provide insight into their own educational experiences and speculate on advanced placement has affected their teacher development.

Required Text: The AP Government and Politics Acorn Book, May 2012. This text will be provided.

Course Objectives:

The student will:

- 1 Understand the mission statement of the College Board and how it affects the development of an AP Government and Politics class.
- 2 Develop an AP Government and Politics scope and sequence that will match one's respective school calendar and state social studies academic requirements.
- 3 Devise or improve a curriculum that will include the following topics:
 1. Constitutional Underpinnings of United State Government
 2. Political Beliefs and Behaviors
 3. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media
 4. Institutions of National Government
 5. Public Policy
 6. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- 1 Develop a knowledge base that will emphasize the important facts, concepts and theories by understanding typical patterns of the political process, behavior and institutions that are relevant to U.S. government and politics.
- 2 Research the various textbooks and supplementary materials available in an

attempt to develop a resource library.

- 3 Evaluate measurement strategies used by the College Board in developing multiple choice and essay test banks in an attempt to design applicable tools.
- 4 Analyze effective writing strategies that students will need to employ for successful AP examinations and college-level rigor.
- 5 Extract enrichment activities, demonstrations, and best practice devices from classroom interaction and networking.

Teaching Methods

AP consultant will employ the use of facilitator presentation, student presentation, classroom discussion, classroom readings, and small group discussions. Classroom enrichment exercises will focus on government and politics demonstrations and simulations that emphasize conceptual development. A few video sequences will be used as resource tools.

Homework Assignments:

Scope and sequence that is respective of your school requirements.

Textbook selection and resource development

“Best practices” demonstration that can be used in a government and politics classroom

Curriculum assessments

Methods of Evaluation

Class participation in government and politics activities, demonstrations and simulations.

Textbook evaluation (College credit only) see attached rubric

Scope and Sequence (College credit only) see attached rubric

1-2 page paper—topic: How has advanced placement affected by teaching? (College Credit only) See attached rubric

Course Schedule:

Monday

8:00 – noon – Introduction to the College Board and Advanced Placement American

Government + Politics. Curriculum development and recruitment, course structure and textbook selection.

Afternoon. Student curriculum presentations, Constitutional underpinnings -- Supplemental reading development; Federalism star power.

Tuesday

8:00 – noon – Student curriculum presentations, Importance of writing as an effective communication tool. American Government Cloze reading evaluation. Establishment of the Political Culture

Afternoon. Student curriculum presentations, Political Parties and the Electoral system. Fishbowl on Campaign Finance Reform – Resource and curriculum development

Wednesday

8:00 – noon – Student curriculum presentations, College Board Multiple Choice and Essay development. Analysis of the 2007 CB Exam. Web Site development

Afternoon. Student curriculum presentations, Institutional Approach to American Politics: Congress and the Executive Branch. Student Curriculum presentations.

Thursday

8:00 – noon – Student curriculum presentations Judicial Branch—maintaining the legacy of Constitutional government. Final textbook selection.

Afternoon – Student curriculum presentations, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: The intricacies of an open society and maintaining sovereignty. Student curriculum presentations

Evaluation Rubrics (College Credit Only)

Textbook evaluation:

5	3	1	
—	—	—	Thesis statement and five supporting sentences
—	—	—	Reading assessment is accomplished accurately.
—	—	—	Ancillary materials are evaluated.
—	—	—	Scope and sequence of course is thoroughly acknowledged.
—	—	—	Source is more reference-based, than classroom text
Total (25)	—	—	

Comments:

Scope + Sequence:

5	3	1	
—	—	—	Scope + Sequence adapts to respective school calendar.
—	—	—	College Board “Topics” are thoroughly covered.
—	—	—	College – level writing assignments are adopted.
—	—	—	College-level exam methodology is adopted.
—	—	—	College-level applications are identified through out the sequence.
Total (25)	—	—	

How Advanced Placement affected by Teaching:

10	7	5	3	
—	—	—	—	Thesis statement and five supporting sentences.
—	—	—	—	History of AP involvement is explained.
—	—	—	—	Impact of AP on teaching is analyzed.
—	—	—	—	Describes two goals for AP instruction.
—	—	—	—	Examines the impact of AP on school academic environment.
Total (50)	—	—	—	

Final Total (100) _____

Comments:

***Prepared by David La Shomb
Midwest College Board Consultant
AP American + Comparative Government + Politics***