

# AP Government Syllabus

Mr. Liew

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## Office Hours:

Tuesday: 2:45-3:15

Or by appointment

## The Course:

This class is designed to be a college level course. During the course of this year we will be exploring American government and politics in the context of history and our modern day government. As you prepare to leave High School and enter into adulthood (a.k.a. turning 18) you will be tasked with several responsibilities, some responsibilities of adulthood you'll enjoy, others not so much. This course is to prepare you for that and to allow you to understand why and how the government operates the way that it does. This class will require you to keep up with the news, read often, and encourage you to be involved in various political and community events. This class will prepare you on the topics that will be on the AP test during May.

## Course Expectations:

**Reading:** Students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the week it is due. Students should be prepared to read on a regular basis (4-6 hours a week).

**Assignments:** Assignments are due on the dates assigned. Late work is NOT accepted, please be sure to complete assignments on time. Missed or late work will be accepted on EXCUSED absences only.

**Integrity Policy:** Students are expected to uphold the highest value of integrity in the classroom. There is a 0-tolerance policy when it comes to academic dishonesty. Any cheating will result in a 0 with no chance for a makeup, there will be NO exceptions. This will also mean there will be no chance for a defense.

Attendance Policy: You will be expected to arrive on time for class. Each tardy and unexcused absence will affect your grade. You are responsible for work when you are absent or tardy. You will have up to the end of the week to make up for any work that was missed on an excused absence.

### **Throwing Out P.C.:**

The nature of this class will challenge many of today's issues. We're going to have to learn to throw out Political Correctness as we engage in discussions. To be ready to listen to all perspectives, no matter how uncomfortable that makes us. This will allow us to be more effective in our discussions and allow us to learn more through lectures and class discussions.

### **The Purpose:**

The purpose of this course is...

- ...for us to explore history and learn how we, as a nation, arrived at where we are today.
- ...for you to learn that YOU can make a difference.
- ...for you to learn the skills needed to succeed post high school.
- ...for you to develop into a critical thinker.
- ...for you to learn to develop YOUR position and personal stance on controversial topics.
- ...for you to become a productive member of our global, national, and local society

### **Course Texts:**

Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, 2012 Election Edition

AMSCO Advanced Placement: United States Government and Politics, 2019

Note on texts: Course texts and resources will be available online or in the classroom. I will make sure to assign work that you will be able to access without having to purchase anything. Although if you do decide you want your personal copy to annotate or hold onto, feel free to purchase them.

### **Required Materials:**

- Dedicated notebook for reading notes
- Apple MacBook (provided by the school) – Please have it charged prior to class.
- Notecards to make flash cards
- Access to my Weebly/PowerSchool/OneNote

## **Grading: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

Homework – 15%

- Homework Packets (w/Stamp Card)
- Chapter Readings

Assessments – 40%

- Chapter Quizzes & Other Quizzes
- Unit Tests and Finals
- Constitution Test

Classwork – 20%

- Political Participation Project (see below)
- Projects
- Movies:

You will be asked to attend two movies or live streams per semester (some examples of films or news we might watch)

- Journeys with George (Media and Campaigning)
- State of the Union Address (LIVE- on President)
- Primary Debates (LIVE- on Elections and Voting)
- 13<sup>th</sup> (Civil Rights)
- Reversing Roe (Civil Liberties)
- Nobody Speak (Civil Liberties)

Citizenship & Participation – 25%

- Citizenship and Participation Self Assessments
- Discussion Board Posts

### **Political Participation Project (20%):**

During the year, your class period will be asked to create a project where you will do a community project that will display your learnings. Grades will be distributed based on the success and completion of your project relative to the other AP Government periods.

**Dates and Topics:** *Dates and assignments can change throughout the year.*

<b>Quarter I</b>				
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading By Mon./Tues.</b>	<b>Reading By Wed./Thur.</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b> (7/21-23)	<b>UNIT 1: Constitutional Underpinnings</b> Introduction to the Course		Ch. 1 (pg. 1-15)	
<b>2</b> (7/26-30)	Scope of Government	Ch. 1 (pg. 15-25)	Ch. 2 (pg. 32-50)	Ch. 1 Quiz
<b>3</b> (8/2-6)	Constitution	Ch. 2 (pg. 50-67)		Ch. 2 Quiz
<b>4</b> (8/9-13)	Federalism	Ch. 3 (pg. 72-84)	Ch. 3 (pg. 84-100)	Ch. 3 Quiz (W/R)
<b>5</b> (8/16-20)	<b>UNIT 2: Political Beliefs</b> Political Socialization	Ch. 6 (190-202)		
<b>6</b> (8/23-27)	Polling	Ch. 6 (202-220)		Ch. 6 Quiz *State Demographics Project due
<b>7</b> (8/30-9/3)	Political Parties	Ch. 8 (pg. 256-270)		
<b>8</b> (9/6-10)	History of Parties and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Parties	Ch. 8 (270-282)		Ch. 8 Quiz
<b>9</b> (9/13-17)	Mass Media	Ch. 7		Ch. 7 Quiz M: Journeys with George
<b>10</b> (9/20-10/1)	Fall Break			

\*Means a major project  
M: Movie/Film  
W/R: Wednesday/Thursday

## Quarter II

Week	Topic	Reading By Mon./Tues.	Assignments
1 (10/5-8)	<b>Unit 3: Political Participation</b> Campaigns and Voting Behavior	Ch. 9	Ch. 9 Reading Quiz
2 (10/11-15)	Examining Today's Campaigning		
3 (10/18-22)	Interest Groups	Ch. 10 (pg. 328-339)	
4 (10/25-29)	Political Parties v. Interest Groups	Ch. 10 (pg. 339-354)	Ch. 10 Reading Quiz
5 (11/1-5)			Unit Packet Due Unit Test
6 (11/8-12)	<b>Unit 4: Branches of Government</b> Checks and Balances		
7 (11/15-19)	Congress	Ch. 11 (pg. 358-369)	Introduce Congress Simulation
(11/22-26)	Thanksgiving Break		
8 (11/29-12/3)	Congress	Ch. 11 (pg. 370-391)	Ch. 11 Reading Quiz M: Taking Down the House
9 (12/6-10)	Performance Task: *Congress Simulation Week		
10 (12/13-17)	Semester Review + Final		Semester Final
(12/20-1/7)	Winter Break *Court Case Assignment *Civics Court Case Essay Assignment		

## Quarter III

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading By Mon./Tues.</b>	<b>Reading By Wed./Thur.</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b> (1/11-14)	<b>UNIT 4: Executive and Judicial Branches</b> Presidency	Ch. 12		Ch. 12 Reading Quiz
<b>2</b> (1/18-21)	Political Budgeting and Spending		Ch. 13 (pg. 442-454)	Court Case Quiz 1
<b>3</b> (1/24-28)	Budgeting & Bureaucracy	Ch. 13 (pg. 454-469)	Ch. 14 (pg. 472-483)	Ch. 13 Reading Quiz
<b>4</b> (1/31-2/4)	Bureaucracy	Ch. 14 (pg. 484-502)		Ch. 14 Reading Quiz Court Case Quiz 2
<b>5</b> (2/7-11)	The Courts	Ch. 15 (pg. 506-516)	Ch. 15 (525-541)	Ch. 15 Reading Quiz (W/R)
<b>6</b> (2/14-17)	<b>UNIT 5: Policymaking</b> Economic Policymaking	Ch. 16		Court Case Quiz 3
<b>7</b> (2/22-25)	Healthcare, Environment, and Energy	Ch. 17 *SPLIT CHAPTER		
<b>8</b> (2/28-3/4)	National Security Policymaking	Ch. 18 (pg. 608-624)	Ch. 18 (pg. 624-641)	Poll Workers for Elections
<b>9</b> (3/7-11)	Review + Quarter Final (Cumulative)	*Unit Packet Due		Quarter Final (Cumulative)
<b>10</b> (3/14-18)	Civil Liberties/Civil Rights Intro			M: 13th

## Quarter IV

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading By Mon./Tues.</b>	<b>Reading By Wed./Thur.</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b> (4/5-8)	<b>UNIT 6: Civil Rights and Liberties</b> Civil Liberties	Ch. 4 (pg. 104-126)	Ch. 4 (pg. 126-146)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (W/R) M: Reversing Roe
<b>2</b> (4/11-15)	Civil Rights	Ch. 5 (pg. 152-170)	Ch. 5 (pg. 170-185)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (W/R)
<b>3</b> (4/18-22)	AP Test Review			Unit Packet Due
<b>4</b> (4/25-29)	AP Test Review			
<b>5</b> (5/2-6)	AP Test Review	<b>*AP TEST – May 2nd</b>		Final
<b>6</b> (5/9-13)	Political Participation Project			
<b>7</b> (5/16-20)	Political Participation Project			
<b>8</b> (5/23-27)	<b>Senior Week</b>			
<b>9</b> (5/31-6/6)	Last Week of School			

# Mr. Liew's Teaching Philosophy

**I became a teacher because:**  
great teachers make great things happen.

**As a teacher, I want to be...**  
encouraging in my speech and challenging in my tasks.

**My purpose/values are...**  
faith based- which has helped me see that I can make a positive difference.

**You will be able to see this in my classroom when...**  
there is freedom to say what is on our minds, an unrelenting pursuit of truth, unashamed voice to speak, and passion for growth.

**My responsibility as a teacher is...**  
to care for, to love, and to challenge every single person that walks through my doors. To give inspiration to students to find their calling.

**I develop relationships with my students by...**  
always leaving my door open- to have personal conversations, to celebrate victories, to cry in defeats, help when in need, and encourage when I have wisdom to impart or just listen when I don't.

**My teaching is relevant when...**  
I am intentional in pushing the limits of the classroom through challenging thoughts and shared struggle.



## Syllabus Signature Page

I have read the entire syllabus and understand the expectations that are asked of me for this upcoming school year. By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I understand the procedures and policies that are outlined in the syllabus.
- I understand that the failure to abide by these rules and expectations may lead to severe academic consequences.
- I understand that any form of cheating will result in a 0 in the assignment(s) that will NOT be able to made up.

Student Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_