

Course at a Glance

Plan

The Course at a Glance provides a useful visual organization of the AP U.S. Government and Politics curricular components, including:

- Sequence of units, along with approximate weighting and suggested pacing. Please note, pacing options are provided for teaching the course for a full year and for a single semester.
- Progression of topics within each unit.
- Spiraling of the skills across all units.

Teach

COURSE SKILLS

Course skills spiral across units.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Concept Application | 3 Data Analysis |
| 2 SCOTUS Application | 4 Source Analysis |
| | 5 Argumentation |

Assess

Assign the Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from the Progress Checks shows students the areas where they need to focus.

UNIT
1

Foundations of American Democracy

~16/~8 Class Periods
15–22% AP Exam Weighting

1	1.1 Ideals of Democracy
4	1.2 Types of Democracy
1	1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights
4	1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
1	1.5 Ratification of the U.S. Constitution
4	1.6 Principles of American Government
5	1.7 Relationship between the States and National Government
2	1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
5	1.9 Federalism in Action

Progress Check 1

- Multiple-choice: ~20 questions**
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
 - Argument Essay (partial)
 - Argument Essay (partial)

UNIT
2

Interactions Among Branches of Government

~28/~14 Class Periods
25–36% AP Exam Weighting

1	2.1 Congress: The Senate and the House of Representatives
3	2.2 Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress
2	2.3 Congressional Behavior
3	2.4 Roles and Powers of the President
1	2.5 Checks on the Presidency
4	2.6 Expansion of Presidential Power
1	2.7 Presidential Communication
2	2.8 The Judicial Branch
1	2.9 The Role of the Judicial Branch
2	2.10 The Court in Action
1	2.11 Checks on the Judicial Branch
4	2.12 The Bureaucracy
1	2.13 Discretionary and Rulemaking Authority
3	2.14 Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable
3	2.15 Policy and the Branches of Government

Progress Check 2

- Multiple-choice: ~45 questions**
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
 - Quantitative Analysis
 - SCOTUS Comparison

NOTE: Partial versions of the free-response questions are provided to prepare students for more complex, full questions that they will encounter on the AP Exam.

**UNIT
3**

**Civil Liberties
and Civil Rights**

~26/~13 Class Periods **13–18%** AP Exam Weighting

- 1** 3.1 The Bill of Rights
- 2** 3.2 First Amendment: Freedom of Religion
- 5** 3.3 First Amendment: Freedom of Speech
- 4** 3.4 First Amendment: Freedom of the Press
- 4** 3.5 Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms
- 5** 3.6 Amendments: Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety
- 2** 3.7 Selective Incorporation
- 5** 3.8 Amendments: Due Process and the Rights of the Accused
- 1** 3.9 Amendments: Due Process and the Right to Privacy
- 4** 3.10 Social Movements and Equal Protection
- 2** 3.11 Government Responses to Social Movements
- 2** 3.12 Balancing Minority and Majority Rights
- 1** 3.13 Affirmative Action

Progress Check 3

- Multiple-choice: ~30 questions**
Free-response: 3 questions
- SCOTUS Comparison
 - Argument Essay (partial)
 - Argument Essay (partial)

**UNIT
4**

**American
Political
Ideologies and
Beliefs**

~22/~11 Class Periods **10–15%** AP Exam Weighting

- 1** 4.1 American Attitudes About Government and Politics
- 3** 4.2 Political Socialization
- 3** 4.3 Changes in Ideology
- 4** 4.4 Influence of Political Events on Ideology
- 3** 4.5 Measuring Public Opinion
- 3** 4.6 Evaluating Public Opinion Data
- 1** 4.7 Ideologies of Political Parties
- 4** 4.8 Ideology and Policymaking
- 3** 4.9 Ideology and Economic Policy
- 4** 4.10 Ideology and Social Policy

Progress Check 4

- Multiple-choice: ~30 questions**
Free-response: 3 questions
- Concept Application
 - Quantitative Analysis
 - Quantitative Analysis

**UNIT
5**

**Political
Participation**

~18/~9 Class Periods **20–27%** AP Exam Weighting

- 1** 5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior
- 3** 5.2 Voter Turnout
- 1** 5.3 Political Parties
- 4** 5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
- 3** 5.5 Third-Party Politics
- 3** 5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policymaking
- 1** 5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes
- 5** 5.8 Electing a President
- 5** 5.9 Congressional Elections
- 5** 5.10 Modern Campaigns
- 2** 5.11 Campaign Finance
- 5** 5.12 The Media
- 2** 5.13 Changing Media

Progress Check 5

- Multiple-choice: ~30 questions**
Free-response: 3 questions
- Quantitative Analysis
 - Argument Essay
 - Argument Essay