

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, including the location of required foundational documents or Supreme Court cases.
- Spiraling of the big ideas and practices across units.

Teach

DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES

Disciplinary practices spiral across units.

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

BIG IDEAS

Big ideas spiral across units.

- | | |
|--|--|
| CON Constitutionalism | PMI Competing Policy-Making Interests |
| LOR Liberty and Order | |
| PRD Civic Participation in a Representative Democracy | MPA Methods of Political Analysis |

FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS AND SUPREME COURT CASES

- Foundational Document
- Supreme Court Case

Assess

Assign the Personal Progress Checks—either as homework or in class—for each unit. Each Personal Progress Check contains formative multiple-choice and free-response questions. The feedback from the Personal 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

LOR	1	1.1 Ideals of Democracy
LOR	4	1.2 Types of Democracy
CON	1	1.3 Government Power and Individual Rights
CON	4	1.4 Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
CON	1	1.5 Ratification of the United States Constitution
PMI	4	1.6 Principles of American Government
CON	5	1.7 Relationship Between States and the Federal Government
CON	2	1.8 Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
CON	5	1.9 Federalism in Action

Personal 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

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

Personal 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.

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UNIT 3

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

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

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

Personal 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

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

Personal 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

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

Personal Progress Check 5

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