

READINESS PROFILE & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

AP United States Government and Economics

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Linked Courses	Civics & Economics
Recommended Courses	U.S. History, or APUSH
Interest	College level in depth exploration of U.S. Government and its practices

U.S. Government & Politics (Advanced Placement) is designed to give students a critical perspective on government, politics, and economics in the United States. The class involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret American governmental, political, and economic systems and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the American political reality. This course is intended to prepare students who wish to take the Advanced Placement Examination in U.S. Government and Politics. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "A" or "G" requirement. UC approved for extra honors credit (A=5, B=4, C=3).

COURSE CONTENT AND EXPECTATIONS

This course is designed to take an in depth analysis of the United States governments role, functions and ideologies in order to better understand citizenship. It involves reading a college level text book, many primary source articles, writing historical based essays, and taking multiple choice exams. Students are expected to complete all assignments at a college level.

MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

AP United States Government

Constitution (Bill of Rights, Articles, Amendments, Foundations)
Federalism (State and National government history and relationship)
Civil Liberties (Bill of Rights, major cases, legislation, and history)
Judicial Branch (Supreme Court mock trials, functions and history of the court)
Legislative Branch (Congress's role in the United States, powers and history)
Executive Branch (presidential power and influence)
Combo Unit (Media, PAC's, Lobbying, Political Parties, Elections, Special Interests)
Policy making (social, foreign, and economic policy making in the United States)
Community Service Project (10 hours of community service with write up and pictures)

Economics 4th quarter (last quarter of the academic year)

Supply and demand
Factors of Production
Taxation
Comparative Economics
Personal Budgets
Business market and relationship
International Trade
Unemployment

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STUDENT BACKGROUND

- There are no prerequisites for the course, but it is advised to have an understanding of advanced writing and United States History.
- Students entering should also be able to analyze primary source documents, work independently, and write effectively.

Suggested preparatory courses:

- United States History or AP United States History, World History or AP European History

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS

Student will be expected to read approximately 10 pages of college level text per day and take frequent quizzes. In addition to this, students are expected to complete study guides, writing prompts, take timed multiple choice/essay exams, and current events assignments. Student workload will depend on the individual's use of class time, organization, reading speed, and prior understanding of the course materials.