

AP US Government and Politics

Ms. Brittany Camp

E230

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The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.

-Winston Churchill

Welcome to AP US Government and Politics! Former British Prime Minister obviously took a dim view of his own citizenry, but let's prove him wrong, shall we?

Course Overview:

This is an AP course, so the content and structure is laid out by the College Board. There is a lot of very detailed content for you to learn and only one semester to do it, so you should anticipate working very hard but also learning a lot about our nation and its intricate and often contentious governmental structures. You will have homework every class period which I design to take you about 30-45 minutes. I do not want it to take longer than that, so if it consistently does, please come see me. Below you will find the major topics/units that we will study.

Constitutional Underpinnings (10%)	4 days	Chapters 1-3
Political Beliefs and Behaviors (15%)	3 days	Chapters 6-7
Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media (15%)	5 days	Chapters 8-10
Congress (10%)	4 days	Chapter 11
Presidency (10%)	3 days	Chapter 12
Bureaucracy (10%)	4 days	Chapter 13
Courts System (10%)	3 days	Chapter 14
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (10%)	4 days	Chapters 4-5
Public Policy (10%)	3 days	Chapters 15-18

Required Supplies

- Your CHARGED Chromebook - We will use it every single day. If you don't have it, you'll get a 0 on the Daily Quiz which cannot be made up. If it is not charged, you'll lose 20 points on the Daily Quiz.
- A binder where you can keep the myriad notes and/or handouts which you will want to have to review for the test
- Earbuds (used occasionally for specific instructional videos) - If you don't have them, you'll have to borrow from the communal stash (ick) or take a 0 (also ick)
- Pen or pencil

Grading Policy

This class follows the District grading policy (A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59).

Here's how your grade is determined:

50% - Tests (You will have *at least* three tests per quarter. Each test will be made up of Multiple Choice and FRQs, just like the AP test itself. If you score lower than a 75% on a test and would like to re-take it, you may arrange to do so on a Friday afternoon within two weeks of the original test date.)

20% - Homework (Look at the sheer volume of information and you will understand why you will have nightly homework assignments.)

15% - Classwork (This is your "gimme" category. Do simple tasks when you are asked to!)

15% - Daily Quizzes (These cannot be made up except under Extremely Dire Circumstances by Special Petition. If you are absent, you will earn an automatic 0 on the Daily Quiz. I will drop the 2 lowest grades in this category at the end of each quarter.)

Attendance and Assignments

YOU are responsible for keeping up with your assignments when they are due. EVERYTHING that is graded is posted in Google Classroom with instructions and a clear due date. If there is an in-class handout, it will be there. Of course, if you are ill, please rest and recover, and according to the School Board Policy you will receive the number of days absent plus one to make up any work you missed for full credit. However, please do not return clueless - Use the resources available to you. It is, literally, an internet classroom. Visit it before you come back and you will find catching up *much* easier!

If you need help, *please* ask! I offer tutoring in my room every Tuesday or Thursday afternoon until 4:00pm. If you are struggling with a concept or just need some help preparing for a test, all you need to do is show up and ask! (And then, of course, put in the requisite effort yourself.)

Electronics Policy

Unless otherwise directed, all electronic devices are to be turned off (or on silent) and put completely away before the bell rings to start classes. Put away means in a purse, backpack, or other bag, *not* in your pocket or hidden underneath your legs. See the District Code of Conduct for consequences.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty comes in many forms - cheating on a test, plagiarism, copying others' homework. If you are caught you will receive a zero for that assignment and your parent/guardian will be notified. If you are ever in doubt as to whether what you are doing is dishonest, chances are very good it is - that niggling doubt in the back of your head is your conscience. Do your own work, or graciously accept the 0 you have earned.

Classroom Conduct

My expectations for your conduct are very simple:

- Treat *everyone* in class - classmate, teacher, French bulldog tape dispenser - with the utmost respect at all times, even if their words or behavior do not seem to merit it.