AP U.S. Government and Politics studies the operations and structure of the U.S. government and the behavior of the electorate and politicians. Students will gain the analytic perspective necessary to critically evaluate political data, hypotheses, concepts, opinions, and processes. Along the way, they'll learn how to gather data about political behavior and develop their own theoretical analysis of American politics. They'll also build the skills they need to examine general propositions about government and politics, and to analyze the specific relationships between political, social, and economic institutions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. Government and Politics prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in political science, law, education, business, and history.

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Length: One Semester

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

- Politics in a Democracy
- Constitutional Foundations
- Federalism
- Wrap-up: Foundations of American Democracy

Unit 2: Interaction Among Branches of Government

- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Bureaucracy
- The Courts
- Checks and Balances
- Wrap-up: Interaction Among Branches of Government

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Wrap-up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

- Public Opinion in America
- Political Culture
- Domestic Policy
- Wrap-up: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 5: Political Participation

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- Political Parties
- Campaigns and Elections
- Interest Groups
- The Media
- Wrap-up: Political Participation

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

- Practice AP Exams
- Final Course Exam

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