

# AP US Government Course Outline

**Course Number: 233**

**Number of Credits: 5**

**Level of Course: Advanced Placement**

**Grade Level Offered to: 10- 12**

**Prerequisite: Honors Level World Studies, American Studies I or American Studies II; or successful completion of Honors screening.**

**Written/Revised: May, 2008**

## **I. Introduction**

Advanced Placement United States Government has been designed as a third or fourth year Social Studies elective. AP US Government is a detailed survey of the operation and functioning of the Federal government with a balance of political and social materials. AP US Government involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U S politics and the analysis of specific case studies. AP US Government closely follows the ETS Guidelines.

By the end of Grade 12, students will be required to display a mastery of the New Jersey Core Proficiency Standards, building upon knowledge and skills gained in preceding grades. *Copies of the New Jersey Core Proficiency Standards are available upon request.* Social Studies Skills and New Jersey History will be integrated into the instruction as appropriate for each content standard.

## **II. New Jersey Core Proficiency Standards**

Standard 6.1 All students will utilize historical thinking, problem solving, and research skills to maximize their understanding of Civics, History, Geography, and Economics.

Standard 6.2 (Civics) All students will know, understand and appreciate the values and principles of American Democracy and the rights, responsibilities, and roles of a citizen in the nation and the world.

Standard 6.3 (World History) all students will demonstrate knowledge of world history in order to understand life and events in the past and how they relate to the present and the future.

Standard 6.4 (United States and New Jersey History) All students will demonstrate knowledge of the United States and New Jersey history in order to understand life and events in the past and how they relate to the present and the future.

Standard 6.5 (Economics) all students will acquire an understanding of key economic principles.

Standard 6.6 (Geography) all students will apply knowledge of spatial relationships and other geographic skills to understand human behavior in relation to the physical and cultural environment.

### **III. Course Outline**

Text : **American Government** , Seventh Edition. Welch, Susan, *et al.* , West / Wadsworth, 1999.

#### **Part One / The American System**

1. American Democracy
2. The Constitution
3. Federalism and the Growth of Government

#### **Part Two / Links Between People and Government**

4. Public Opinion
5. Interest Groups
6. Political Parties
7. Elections
8. News Media
9. Money and Politics

#### **Part Three / Institutions**

10. Congress
11. The Presidency
12. The Bureaucracy
13. The Judiciary

#### **Part Four / Civil Liberties and Rights**

14. Civil Liberties
15. Civil Rights

#### **Part Five / Public Policies**

16. Social Welfare Policy
17. Economic Policy
18. Regulations and Environmental Policy
19. Foreign Policy

#### IV. Additional Policies Regarding this Course

The Advanced Placement program is a one year course that is designed to prepare the student to compete in the AP testing program conducted by the Educational Testing Service. Achieving of sufficiently high scores on the AP test can earn the student college credit or the equivalent from a large number of colleges and universities. The course will also provide the student with a high level of background in both content and skills as a preparation for advanced study in college.

Students entering the AP program should have completed the World Studies or any American Studies Honors level course. Honors level courses are designed as preparation courses for the Advanced Placement program as they cover the major facts, concepts, and trends that will be studied in depth in an AP course. Students who have completed the American Studies CP-A level of instruction or World Studies CP-A level of instruction are also eligible to enroll in an AP level course provided they meet the requirements for entry into the Honors Program of the Social Studies department. Students enrolled in this AP course are required to take the appropriate AP exam. *A complete copy of the Honors Policy is available upon request.*

#### V. Course Evaluation

Tests ,Quizzes	60 %
Assignments	30 %
Participation	10 %

It is the policy of the Social Studies Department that all assignments are to be presented in a timely manner. All assignments that are turned in after their due date will be considered "late." Assignments that are one day late will result in a permanent loss of credit.

#### VI. Miscellaneous Course Information

1. Use of Current Periodicals: Students will be required to register with the *N Y Times* and class discussions will frequently be based upon this and other outside readings.
2. Assigned Readings: Students will frequently be quizzed on the content of assigned readings and the class discussions that they generate.
3. E-Mail: It is the wish of the instructor that the extensive use of e-mail will be incorporated for the communication and the submission of course assignments.
4. Summer Research Project: All prospective AP US Government students will be required to complete a brief summer research assignment.
5. Additional Assignments: Guest Speakers, class trips, volunteer work, debates, and U S government-related research projects will also be incorporated throughout the year.
6. Extensive use of the internet, both in and out of class, will be utilized.
7. Films and video clips that may be used include:  
*PBS Special : The Supreme Court*  
*Bowling For Columbine*  
*Mississippi Burning (R)*  
*Erin Brockovich*  
*National Geographic: Inside 911*  
*CBS Presents 911*