

AP US Government and Politics

Overview

This college level course is designed to give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. Students will study the following basic concepts: constitutional underpinnings of US government; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and the mass media; institutions of national government; and the formation of public policy. In collaboration with a mentor, students will aim to garner a more well-rounded perspective of US politics and the intricacies of the government.

Objectives

- Appreciate the U.S. Constitution is a living document that revolves around interpretations of our democratic ideals
- Understand the government's responsibility to protect civil rights and liberties for all citizens
- Appreciate and understand how the federal government is more responsive to the people than state governments are
- Enhance knowledge of how distributing political authority among three branches of government protects against potential abuse of power through a system of checks and balances
- Understand how the media is influential in American politics.

Structure

- Reflect on current knowledge of the range of subjects that AP US Government and Politics teaches and identify strengths and weaknesses
 - Develop a personalised curriculum
- Gain a deeper understanding of political systems through research and critical reading
- Use analytical skills in order to compare and contrast data
- Real world examples and case studies
 - Explore political issues affecting their own lives (local and national)
 - Comparison between case studies
- Dialogue and debate
 - Interpret competing and contestable claims
- Make sense of the world and of our role as active citizens
- Develop time management
- Exam practice
 - Past papers
 - Planning and structuring responses