*Leon High School*

### 550 East Tennessee St.

### Tallahassee, FL. 32308

**850.617.5700**

Course: AP U.S. Government and Politics Teacher: Amanda Geiger

Credit: ½ credit e-mail: [geigera@leonschools.net](mailto:geigera@leonschools.net)

Youtube: LeonAPMacro/Gov Website: [**https://leonapecongov.weebly.com**](https://leonapecongov.weebly.com/)

**I am available by appointment during lunch or after school.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics is a one semester, college level course. The course is designed to help students formulate a familiarity with the various institutions: branches, interest groups, political parties and citizen views and behaviors of the U.S. political system. This course requires substantial reading and interest in current events as we work to critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of our political system. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and decision-making tools necessary to understanding how society organizes itself to establish, modify, and interact with governing bodies.

AP U.S. Government and Politics is taught using a project based curriculum. Students will be assigned a role during each project that will serve to guide their position, viewpoints, and responsibilities as they work to complete specific tasks. This curriculum provides a deeper level of interaction with the course material and a greater understanding of content application. A description of each project can be found under the course outline section of this syllabus.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

Students enrolled in this course have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics test. Students will utilize and further develop writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills as they explore the U.S. political environment. Lessons include analysis of the underpinnings of U.S. government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, interest groups, the role of mass media, government institutions, public policy, and civil rights/liberties.

**MATERIALS:**

**Main text**: [AMSCO Advanced Placement: United States Government & Politics](https://www.amscopub.com/social-studies/advanced-placement/united-states-government-politics-ap-exam/amsco-advanced-placement-united-states-government-politics.html). 2019 Edition **Replacement cost: $20.00**

**GRADING SCALE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Percentage |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

**TEACHER GRADING POLICY:**

Your grade will be calculated based on 100% assessment using a point system. Assessment will include tests, quizzes, free response questions, analysis assignments, project rubrics, or any other measure used to assess your mastery of the content. Project guidelines are provided including grading rubrics and point values as the course progress.

On a scheduled date at the end of the nine weeks, students will have the opportunity to retake one test where they scored less than a 70%. The second attempt will be averaged with the first to calculate the redo grade.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity violations can include plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized group work on any assignment, project, or test.

If a student is caught the following will occur:

* The student will receive an F with zero credit.
* The citizenship grade will be lowered for the grading period.
* A notice will be recorded with the guidance office.

Any occurrence of academic dishonesty may be reported by the guidance office on college admissions applications. In addition, your citizenship grade for the class will be reduced.

**There is a zero tolerance policy for electronic devices on assessment days. Any student found with a phone on their person (regardless of the intended use) will receive a grade of zero and will forfeit the opportunity for redo.**

**LATE WORK:**

If an assignment is not turned in on time the highest grade possible is a C (you cannot make an ‘A or B’ on a late assignment). **Late work will not be accepted after two school days.**

**MAKEUP WORK:**

It is your responsibility to collect and complete assignments for the days you are absent.

When you return after an absence:

* Check your unit outline to see what assignments/activities you missed.
* Check the Makeup work folder (filed by class period) for any handouts or worksheets.
* Make up work should be completed as soon as possible and must be turned in before the next unit test for credit.
* If necessary, schedule an appointment to make up a test using the appointment calendar located by the classroom door.

**TARDY/LATE POLICY:**

You are considered tardy for class if you are not sitting in your assigned seat working on the daily warm-up/bell-ringer *when* the bell rings.

Every fourth tardy is recorded as a late. A late is considered an unexcused absence as per the student handbook.

**CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT:**

**I follow the discipline plan as outlined by your student agenda** including those regarding tardiness, dress code, and personal electronic devices.

My expectations for this class are for students, parents, and the instructor to work together to create a safe and **supportive** **learning environment**. I expect **sincere effort** on all tasks and assignments. I also expect **mutual respect** from student to instructor as well as from student to student.

**CLASSROOM TOOLS/MATERIALS:**

Quizlet (App or Online) will be required for all students.

Remind for announcements, project updates, etc.

AP Classroom a new learning platform through College Board will require student registration and will be used for assessment purposes.

AP Classroom a new online content platform from College Board will be used for both instruction and assessment.

Binder/Folder you will be provide materials throughout the course that will need to be saved and consolidated into a graded review project at the end of the semester.

We will rely heavily on the tools found in the Microsoft Office 365 Suite available through Classlink including Outlook email.

**Project Descriptions**

Founder’s Intent (2 .5 weeks): Students are assigned roles as delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. They take on stances as federalists and anti-federalists and debate issues of federalism, one historical and one modern. In this project, students answer the question: According to the founding documents, how does our government work? And should we be faithful to the founders’ intentions?

Clerk to the Court (3 weeks): Students are assigned to roles as legal clerks to Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. They will be assigned to analyze case law and precedent to formulate legal briefs arguing for a specified viewpoint in a case on the Court’s docket involving civil rights and civil liberties. In this project, students will answer the question: How does SCOTUS balance the rights of the individual and the needs of society?

Inside the Beltway (3 weeks): Students are assigned roles as political consultants to Interest Group clients, where they have to create a media plan, a legislative strategy, and election plan for their clients based on the their needs and resources. In this project, students will answer the question: How do people influence the government through interest groups, the media, election, and the iron-triangle (linkage institutions)?

Congress in Session (5 weeks): Students are assigned to roles as members in the House of Representatives, where they have to pass a budget, deal with bureaucratic oversight, and legislative duties while balancing current events. In this project, students will answer the question: How does the government work together to balance the needs and wants of the people?