

# AP GoPo Syllabus

2019-2020

Coach Brinton Nute

Room 223

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**Course Title:** AP Government & Politics

## **Course Description:**

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

**Attendance:** If a student misses a class, he/she will be required to make up the missed assignment. It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher what they missed when absent from school. The homework assignment is to be turned in the following day after returning to school.

**Textbooks/Required Materials:** I will have a class set of textbooks and all students will have access to the online textbook when they receive their login. Students will need paper, a two-inch binder, one package of dividers, pens/pencils, and map pencils.

**Grade Distribution:** **Major (80%)** – All tests and projects

**Daily (20%)** – Quizzes, homework, and in-class assignments

**Homework/Reading Assignments:** All homework and assignments will be turned in at the beginning of the class period. All LATE homework/assignments will result in a lower grade. Work not completed by the due date will receive a maximum grade of 70 if turned in ONE class period late; work turned in TWO class periods late will receive a maximum grade of 50, and late work will not be accepted for a grade after the second class period from the due date.

**Lecture/Discussions:** Everything discussed/covered in class and in the readings are subject to exam.

**General Classroom Rules:**

- 1. Follow directions**
- 2. Stay on task**
- 3. Be in your seat prepared with the required materials when the bell rings**
- 4. Be respectful, considerate, and positive when interacting with others.**
- 5. Accept group role and responsibility**

**Discipline:** If there are discipline problems in class, they will be handled by one or more of the following:

- 1. Verbal Warning**
- 2. Parent phone call**
- 3. Referral to office**

**Cheating:**

Cheating is not accepted. Zeros will be given to all students participating in cheating, copying and/or plagiarizing. If a student is caught giving answers they too will receive zeros.

**(These zeros may not be made up in any way shape or form)**

**Conference:** Conference- 2nd period A Days (10:10-11:45) & 3rd period B Days (12:20-2:00)

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The individuals below have read and accept this syllabus:

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# AP GoPo - Scope & Sequence

## ***Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy***

- Ideals of Democracy
- Types of Democracy
- Government Power and Individual Rights
- Challenges of the Articles of Confederation
- Ratification of the U.S. Constitution
- Principles of American Government
- Relationship between the States and Federal Government
- Constitutional Interpretations of Federalism
- Federalism in Action

## ***Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government***

- Congress - The Senate and the House of Representatives
- Structures, Powers, and Functions of Congress
- Congressional Behavior
- Roles and Powers of the President
- Checks on the Presidency
- Expansion of Presidential Power
- Presidential Communication
- The Judicial Branch
- Legitimacy of the Judicial Branch
- The Court in Action
- Checks on the Judicial Branch
- The Bureaucracy
- Discretionary and Rule-Making Authority
- Holding the Bureaucracy Accountable
- Policy and the Branches of Government

## ***Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights***

- The Bill of Rights
- First Amendment - Freedom of Religion
- First Amendment - Freedom of Speech
- First Amendment - Freedom of the Press
- Second Amendment - Right to Bear Arms
- Amendments - Balancing Individual Freedom with Public Order and Safety
- Selective Incorporation

- Amendments - Due Process and the Rights of the Accused
- Amendments - Due Process and the Rights to Privacy
- Social Movements and Equal Protection
- Government Responses to Social Movements
- Balancing Minority and Majority Rights
- Affirmative Action

### ***Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs***

- American Attitudes About Government and Politics
- Political Socialization
- Changes in Ideology
- Influence of Political Events on Ideology
- Measuring Public Opinion
- Evaluating Public Opinion Data
- Ideologies of Political Parties
- Ideology and Policy Making
- Ideology and Economic Policy
- Ideology and Social Policy

### ***Unit 5: Political Participation***

- Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior
- Voter Turnout
- Political Parties
- How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt
- Third-Party Politics
- Interest Groups Influencing Policy-Making
- Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes
- Electing a President
- Congressional Elections
- Modern Campaigns
- Campaign Finance
- The Media
- Changing Media