**ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SYLLABUS**

**BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

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**TEXTBOOKS:**

-Edwards & Wattenberg. Government in America, AP 16th Edition,NY: Pearson: 2014.

- Janda, Berry, Goldman, Schildkraut. The Challenge of Democracy, 12th Edition, Boston: Wadsworth, 2012.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics is a semester course designed to prepare the student to take the AP exam. This course covers topics and themes addressed in college courses including the study of facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics, the study of the policy-making system, political processes and political behavior. Students must be able to interpret and analyze data to investigate course themes including the structure and functions of the Institutions of the federal government.

**COURSE GRADING:**

100-90= A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59-Below= F

Course grade is calculated on a cumulative point basis. (The weighted % is a rough estimate and subject to change.)

* 6 Unit Tests (1/2 Multiple choice and ½ FRQ) (40%)
* Unit Reading Quizzes (15%)
* Daily Class Activities and Project (25%)
* Final Exam (20%)

**COURSE UNITS: (All readings are from the “Edwards” book)**

1. Introduction (Ch 1: 2-29), Constitution (Ch 2: 30-67) and Federalism (Ch 3:68-97)
2. Public Opinion/Political Action (180-213) and Political Parties (244-271)
3. Mass Media (214-243), Campaigns/Elections (272-311), and Interest Groups (312-339)
4. Congress (340-375) and Taxing/Spending (420-449)
5. President (376-419) and Bureaucracy (450-483)
6. Courts (484-521) and Civil Liberties (98-143)

**SKILLS:**

* College Level Reading (weekly quizzes)
* Deep Topical Inquiry (Socratic seminars)
* FRQ Writing (One or two every unit test)
* Deciphering nonlinguistic data (graphs, charts, cartoons)

**AP TEST:**

* 2 hours and 25 minutes
* 60 multiple choice (45 minutes) 50%
* 4 FRQs (100 minutes) 12.5% each
* 2015 Scores-

Overall Score- 1 2 3 4 5

Number of Students in Your Group- 3 7 11 12 9

**JCCC COLLEGE NOW:**

* Payment Deadline

**CHEATING:**

* Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in the student receiving a zero on the assignment and administrator referral.

**ATTENDENCE:**

* It is crucial that you are in class every day as a lot of the material will be explored during class time. Any days missed will result in far more work than if you actually attended class.

**LATE WORK:**

Make –up work is defined as the actual schoolwork or homework assigned on the day of the student’s absence or an alternate assignment equal in purpose.  It is the responsibility of the student to complete assignments, which are missed when the student is absent from class.  If a student misses the given deadline for any assignment, they can turn it in for up to 50% credit until the unit test. After the unit test, no credit will be given for assignments.

Extenuating circumstances may apply, which may result in full credit given.

**EXTRA NOTES:**

* If a student fails a reading quiz (below 60%), that student will receive a zero in the gradebook and is required to do quiz corrections for that section. Upon completion of the corrections the respective grade can go up to an 80% depending upon quality of the corrections
* All of the reading quizzes for each unit must be completed before taking the unit test.
* If a student is absent the day of a unit test, they will receive a different version of the test.