Government Syllabus

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## Course Description

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Underpinning the required content of the course are several big ideas that allow students to create meaningful connections among concepts throughout the course. Students will also engage in skill development that requires them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

## Supplies

* **Mandatory:** Single subject spiral notebook and writing utensils
* **Class Requests**: I am asking each class to bring a different supply item that is difficult to acquire from the campus.
  + **1st Period:** Hand Sanitizer
  + **2nd Period:** Tissues
  + **3rd Period:** Highlighters
  + **4th Period:** Whiteboard Markers
  + **5th Period:** Tissues
  + **6th Period**: Markers

# Course Expectations

**Civics Journal:** My course requires the creation of a civics journal. In addition to aiding in test preparation, your notebook is an essential tool for ongoing assessment. It is expected that you keep the notebook in class, allowing me to provide timely written feedback. **If you lose your civics journal at any point you are expected to create a new one. This assignment is not optional and represents a significant portion of your final grade.**

**Reflective Writing Policy**: Given that some writing responses may encourage introspection about your own life and experiences, I have a policy to respect your privacy. If there are specific pages related to journaling that you prefer to keep private, simply fold the page over. In such cases, I will only check for the completion of the assignment.

**Use of Technology, AI Policy:** This class is low-tech. Notes are taken by hand as part of the civics journal grade, however prior to MCQ tests you will be provided an outline of all information needed to be successful. Using AI for written evaluations and assessments is prohibited. If you are caught using AI for a graded assignment you will receive a 0 per Fort Bend ISD’s plagiarism policy.

**Controversial Topics Disclaimer:** This course is developed in accordance with College Board’s AP Standards. Therefore, topics discussed may be considered controversial and require students to examine their own understanding and beliefs about the world. As a teacher, I prioritize student’s developing their ***own*** perspectives on issues based on facts and evidence-based reasoning. My classroom is a socratic learning environment, and students are expected to conduct themselves with maturity and respect for others.

**Communication Policy:** per Fort Bend ISD policy I will respond to communications via email within two business days. I am not available after 3:15pm on school days.

**Anticipated Grades:** To the best of my ability, I will grade items within 5 school business days. However, **due to the nature of FRQ Response Essays these assignments will take longer.**

1. Civics Journal
2. Vocabulary Quizzes
3. MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) Tests
4. FRQ (Free Response Essay) Tests
5. Projects