



Grand Haven High School AP Government

Course Number: C89A and C89B

Grade Level: 9-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Description

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a college-level year-long course that not only seeks to prepare students for success on the AP Exam in May, but also provides students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in discussions and debates that are currently shaping American politics and society. This political science course studies the interconnectedness of the different parts of the American political system and the behaviors and attitudes that shape this system. AP U.S. Government and Politics accomplishes these goals by framing the acquisition of political knowledge around enduring understandings and big ideas about American government and politics that can be applied to a set of disciplinary practices through the use of a set of reasoning processes. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze current and historical political events like a political scientist and develop factually accurate, well reasoned, thoughtful arguments and opinions that acknowledge and grapple with alternative political perspectives.

Students taking AP U.S. Government are committing to an in-depth study of government and politics conducted over two semesters. Those that do not earn a passing grade during the first semester will be recommended to enroll in regular American Government (1 semester computed on a 4.0 scale) or to complete the test out option in the spring as outlined in the Student Handbook in order to earn their required credit for graduation.

Course Objectives

The disciplinary practices are the tasks students will apply to the course content using the reasoning processes. Becoming proficient in these disciplinary practices gives students the tools to analyze political information, regardless of the format, and develop a factually accurate, thoughtful, and well-reasoned argument or opinion about an issue related to American government and politics. The disciplinary practices in this course include:

- Concept Application: Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context
- SCOTUS Application: Apply Supreme Court decisions

Building Behavioral Expectations

T.E.A.M. GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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- Data Analysis: Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics
- Source Analysis: Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources
- Argumentation: Develop an argument in essay format

Student Expectations

The student is self-motivated and self-directed (independent worker), the student is a positive leader by his/her actions and words (leadership), the student utilizes higher-level thinking skills such as analyzing, inferring, applying, and creating (thinking skills), the student has a good work ethic, stays on task, and remains focused and diligent (work ethic), the student listens actively, answers questions, is engaged in class discussion, does his/her part in group activities and uses class time productively (participation), the student goes “above and beyond” the minimum requirements for an “A” thus producing quality work (motivation), the student’s writing reflects insight, creativity, and thoroughness in addition to following the appropriate format (writing ability), the student listens and is respectful of others’ opinions, follows classroom procedures, and is cooperative and congenial (behavior)

Communication

The student will be provided with specific contact information such as course website, phone number, and email address. Students and parents may view course progress in the Parent Internet Viewer.

Grading Policy

80% of your grade is summative assessment and 20% of your grade is formative assessment. The final exam will be comprehensive and will count for 20% of the semester grade.

Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy
 Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches of Government
 Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
 Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
 Unit 5: Political Participation

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