

Phoenix Christian High School SST400H AP U.S. Government Course Scope & Sequence (Rev. 2011-2012)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the American political system. We will discuss political ideology, the development of the political system and our democratic institutions. Students will be able to evaluate the role of the national government and its relationship to the concept of liberty in a pluralistic society. The discussions will emphasize the changing political culture of American society and its effect on voting patterns, trends and the processes of government. In doing so we will examine certain critical elections in American history as well as recent political movements. The main thrust of the course, however, is to be able to apply an understanding of our political system to contemporary events through a Christian worldview.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND *KEY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Wilson, James Q., John J. Dilulio. American Government: Institutions and Politics. 11th ed. Boston, Mass: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2009.

Peters, Charles (1994). How Washington Really Works (0-201062470-2)

Students are strongly recommended to purchase any of the AP Government and Politics preparation guides available through any book distributor.

COURSE SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

First Semester – The Constitution and Political Process

The Study of American Government,

Block A: August 10, 12, 16, and 18

Block B: August 11, 15, 17, and 19

Key Concepts: Political Power and Democracy

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

The Constitution,

Block A: August 22, 24, 26 and 30

Block B: August 23, 25, 29, and September 3

Key Concepts: The Problem of Liberty, Articles of Confederation, The Challenges of the Constitutional Convention, Motives of the Framers, and Modern Views of Constitutional Reform.

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Federalism,

Block A: September 1, 6, 8, and 12

Block B: September 2, 7, 9, and 13

Key Concepts: Governmental Structure, The Founding Debate of Meaning, Federal State Relations, Federal Aid and Federal Control, and the Devolution Revolution

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

American Political Culture,

Block A: September 14, 16 (1/2 Day), 20 and 22

Block B: September 15, 19, 21, and 23

Key Concepts: Political Culture, Comparing America with Other Nations, The Source of Political Culture, Mistrust of Government, Political Efficacy, and Political Tolerance.

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Civil Liberties,

Block A: September 26, 28, 30, and October 4

Block B: September 27, 29, October 3, and 5

Key Concepts: Politics, Culture and Civil Liberties, Rights in Conflict, Policy Entrepreneurs, Cultural Conflicts, Interpreting and Applying the First Amendment, Speech and National Security, What is Speech?, Who is a Person?, Church and State Crime and Due Process

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Civil Rights,

Block A: October 6, 11, 19, and 21

Block B: October 10, 18, 20, and 24

Key Concepts: The Black Predicament, The Campaign in the Courts, The Campaign in Congress, Women and Equal Rights, Affirmative Action, Gays and the Supreme Court

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Public Opinion,

Block A: October 25, 27, 31, and November 2

Block B: October 26, 28, November 1, and 3

Key Concepts: The Origins of Political Opinion, Cleavages in Public Opinion, Political Ideology, and Political Elites, Public Opinion, and Public Policy

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Political Participation,

Block A: November 4, 8, 10, and 15

Block B: November 7, 9, 14, 29 and 16

Key Concepts: A Closer Look at Nonvoting, The Rise of the American Electorate, and Who Participates in Politics?

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Political Parties,

Block A: November 17, 21, 28, and 30

Block B: November 18, 22, 29, and December 1

Key Concepts: Parties—Here and Abroad, The Rise and Decline of the Political Party, The National Party Structure Today, State and Local Parties, The Two Party System, Minor Parties, Nominating a President, and Parties versus Voters.

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Elections and Campaigns,

Block A: December 5, 7, 9, and 13 (Provided Final Study Guide)

Block B: December 6, 8, and 12 (Note: This is an expatiated unit.)

(Provide Final Study Guide)

Key Concepts: Presidential versus Congressional Campaigns, Primary versus General Campaigns, Money, What Decides the Election, The Effects of Elections on Policy.

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Fall Semester 2009 Exam Review

Block A: December 15

Block B: December 14

Final Exams

December 16-20, 2011

Christmas Break Assignment (see notes above under Independent Practice)**The Bureaucracy,**

December 21-January 3

Key Concepts: Distinctiveness of the American Bureaucracy, The Growth of the Bureaucracy, The Federal Bureaucracy Today, Recruitment and Retention, Personal Attributes, Do Bureaucrats Sabotage their Political Bosses?, Congressional Oversight, Bureaucratic “Pathologies”, Reforming the bureaucracy

Assessments: Visual representation project

Second Semester**Interest Groups,**

Block A: January 4, 6, 10, and 12

Block B: January 5, 9, 11, and 13

Key Concepts: Explaining Proliferation, The Birth of Interest Groups, Kinds of Organizations, Interest Groups and Social Movements, Funds for Interest Groups, The Problem of Bias, The Activities of Interest Groups, and Regulating Interest Groups.

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

The Media,

Block A: January 17, 19, 23, and 25

Block B: January 18, 20, 24, and 26

Key Concepts: Journalism in American Political History, The Structure of Media, Rules Governing the Media, The Effects on the Media on Politics, Governing and the News, and Interpreting the Political News

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Congress,

Block A: January 27, 31, February 2, and 7

Block B: January 30, February 1, 6, and 8

Key Concepts: Congress Verses Parliament, The Evolution of Congress, Who is Congress? Do Members Represent Their Own Views? Ideology and Civility in Congress, The Organization of Congress: Parties and Caucuses, The Organization of Congress: Staffs and Specialized Offices, How a Bill Becomes Law, Reducing the Power and Perks, and Ethics and Congress

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

The Presidency,

Block A: February 9, 13, 15, and 17

Block B: February 10, 14, 16, and 21

Key Concepts: Presidents vs. Prime Ministers, Divided government, The Evolution of the presidency, The powers of the president, The office of the president, Who gets appointed, Presidential character, The power to persuade, The power to say no, The President's program, Presidential transition, How powerful is the President?

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

The Judiciary,

Block A: February 22, 24, 28 and March 1

Block B: February 23, 27, 29, and March 2

Key Concepts: The Development of the Federal Courts, National Supremacy and Slavery Government and Political Liberty, The Revival of State Sovereignty, The Structure of the Federal Courts, Selecting Judges, The Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts, Getting to Court, Supreme Court in Action, The Power of the Federal Courts, Judicial Power Checks

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

The Policy Making Process,

Block A: March 5, 7, 9 and 20

Block B: March 6, 8, 19, and 21

Key Concepts: Setting the Agenda, The Legitimate Scope of Government Action, Making a Decision, Majoritarian Politics: Distributed Benefits, Distributed Costs, Interest Group Politics: Concentrated Benefits, Concentrated Costs, Entrepreneurial Politics: Distributed Benefits, Distributed Costs, The Case of Business Regulation, Perceptions, Beliefs, Interests, and Values

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Economic Policy,

Block A: March 22, 26, 28, and 30

Block B: March 23, 27, 29, and March 2

Key Concepts: The Politics of Economic Prosperity, What Politicians Try to Do, The Politics of Taxing and Spending, Economic Theories and Political Needs, The Machinery of Economic Policy, Spending Money, The Budget, Reducing Spending, Levying taxes

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Social Welfare,

Block A: April 3, 5, 11, and 16

Block B: April 4, 10, 12, and 17

Key Concepts: Social Welfare in the United States, Majoritarian Welfare Programs: Social Security and Medicare, Reforming Majoritarian Welfare Programs, Client welfare programs: AFDC, Two Kinds of Welfare Politics

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Foreign and Military Policy,

Block A: April 18, 20, 24 and 26

Block B: April 19, 23, 25, and 27

Key Concepts: Kinds of Foreign Policy, The Constitutional and Legal Context Presidential Score Box, Evaluating the Power of the President, The Machinery of Foreign Policy, Foreign Policy and Public Opinion, Cleavages Among Foreign Policy Elites, The Uses of Military Force, The Defense Budget, The structure of Defense Decision-Making?, Spending for the War on Terrorism

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

Environmental Policy,

Block A: April 30, May 2, 4 and 8

Block B: May 1, 3, 7 and 9

Key Concepts: The American Context, Entrepreneurial Politics: Global Warming, Majoritarian Politics: Pollution from Automobiles, Interest Group Politics: Acid Rain, Client Politics: Agricultural Pesticides, The Environmental Uncertainties, The results

Assessments: FRQ, MCQ, debate, quiz, article/opinion response, and exam

AP Exam Review and College Board AP Exam**Special Topics Film**

Block A: May 10 and 14

Block B: May 11 and 15

Special Topics Debate

Block A: May 16

Block B: May 17

Who governs? To What Ends?

Spring Break Assignment

Key Concepts: Restraints on the Growth of Government, Relaxing the Restraints, The New System, Consequences of Activist Government, The Influence of Structure, The Influence of Ideas

Assessments: Debate

Final Exam Review

Block A: May 18

Block B: May 21

Spring Break 2010**Spring Break Assignment****Political Debates:**

Key Concepts: Special Topic, Team Prep, Debate

Block A: May 7, 11, and 13

Block B: May 6, 10, and 12

Spring Semester 2010 Exam Review

Block A: May 17

Block B: May 14

Final Exams

May 22-24, 2012