



K-12
TEXAS TECH

AP United States Government and Politics v8 – Syllabus

Course Name

AP GOVT

AP United States Government and Politics v8

Course Information

AP GOVT is a single semester course.

In this course, students investigate 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 the structure of the Constitution throughout the course, as well as its implications for the functioning of government today. Other foundational documents, landmark Supreme Court cases, and opportunities for research and civic action are key elements in this rich course that prepares students to be informed and active participants in U.S. society.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor using your Canvas Inbox. Technical support is available 24/7 at [TTU K-12](#).

Course Topics

After completing this course, the students should have increased knowledge of

- **Identifying the founding principles of the U.S. government**
- Examining historical events that influenced the founding of the United States
- Analyzing the founding documents, including the Constitution
- Evaluating other forms of government in relation to the founding principles

- Identifying the structures and functions of the federal government branches
- Analyzing the impact of government officials and agencies on citizens' lives
- Describing the concepts of judicial review and judicial decision-making
- Analyzing significant U.S. Supreme Court rulings
- Identifying the dynamic nature of federalism and its practical applications
- Identifying the elements of legal citizenship and naturalization
- Evaluating civic duties and responsibilities for the common good
- Recognizing the impact of individual and collective action on civil rights and liberties
- Analyzing the role of different groups in influencing public policy
- Evaluating sources of information and political messaging
- Identifying key concepts and trends related to elections and voter turnout

Textbook and Materials

Materials

- Student e-text: We the People: An Introduction to American Politics; Ginsberg, B., Lowi, T. J., Weir, M., Tolbert, C. J., & Spitzer, R.J. Fourteenth Essentials Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2023

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Canvas)
- browser (we recommend Chrome)
- supported browser plugins and settings
The following plugins and settings may be required to use our courses.
 - JavaScript enabled
 - Cookies enabled
 - Java installed
- Email
- Printing capabilities
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- accessing online learning materials via Canvas
- Internet search engines and browsers (we recommend Chrome)
- uploading assignments into Canvas (there will be instructions for uploading assignments)

Course Pacing

This course is designed to be completed in 18 weeks.

- Print this guide and use a calendar to fill in your goal dates for completing each Module.
- To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly.
- Students can learn at their own pace; however, "any pace" still means that students must make progress in the course every week.
- Post the pace guide in a place where you and your Parent or Guardian will see it every day (on the refrigerator or next to the computer). Give yourself a check every time you complete a task, and celebrate your efforts!

Weeks	Lessons	Due Date (you write this in)
1	01.00 Diagnostic Exam 01.01 Why Government? 01.02 Founding Principles 01.03 The Constitution	
2	01.04 Federalists v. Anti-Federalists 01.05 Separation of Powers 01.06 Federalism	
3	01.07 The Power Debate Today 01.08 Constitutional Democracy Review 01.09 Constitutional Democracy Exam	
4	02.00 Interaction Among Branches Introduction 02.01 Congress 02.02 Congressional Behavior 02.03 The Presidency	
5	02.04 Executive Power 02.05 The Supreme Court 02.06 The Bureaucracy	

Weeks	Lessons	Due Date (you write this in)
6	02.07 Checks, Balances, and Accountability 02.08 Interaction Among Branches Review 02.09 Interaction Among Branches Exam	
7	03.00 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Introduction 03.01 The First Amendment 03.02 Security v. Speech 03.03 Liberty v. Safety	
8	03.04 The Accused 03.05 Due Process 03.06 Equal Protection	
9	03.07 And Justice for All 03.08 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Review 03.09 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Exam	
10	04.00 American Political Ideologies Introduction 04.01 American Attitudes and Core Values 04.02 Political Socialization 04.03 Ideology	
11	04.04 Public Opinion 04.05 Ideology, Political Parties, and Policies 04.06 Ideologies in Practice	
12	04.07 American Political Ideologies Exam 05.00 Political Participation Introduction 05.01 The Voters 05.02 The Parties	
13	05.03 Interest Groups 05.04 Elections 05.05 Campaigns	
14	05.06 The Media 05.07 AP Practice Exam	
15	05.08 Political Participation Review 05.09 Political Participation Exam	
16	Final Exam	
17	Floating Vacation Week	
18	Floating Vacation Week	

Course Credit

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- formative assessments (50%)
- summative assessments (20%)
- summative final exam (30%)

Assignments are labeled as “summative” or “formative” under Grades in Canvas.

Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire 180 days after the enrollment date.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

This policy covers any generative AI tool, such as ChatGTP, Elicit, Photo Math, etc. This includes text and artwork/graphics/video/audio, etc.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not use artificial intelligence tools to complete your assignments in this course.

If an instructor suspects that an assignment is not the work of the student, it will receive a score of zero. The instructor will message the student or provide feedback on the assignment indicating the need to schedule a one-on-one video conference, during which the student will be required to demonstrate their skills or knowledge through an alternative or mutually agreed-upon assignment. The grade of the alternate or agreed upon assignment will be determined at the instructor’s discretion with the highest possible score being 70%.

If it is determined that a student has violated final exam directions on Final Exam A or CBE Set 1, the exam will be scored as zero. The student may take Final Exam B or CBE Set 2 with the highest possible score being 70%.

The incident will be reported to Texas Tech K-12 Administration and documented in the student's file. Continued violations of Texas Tech University's Academic Integrity Policy will result in the removal of the student from the program.

Student/Parent Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Canvas course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your student's progress in the course.

The following are prohibited while using the Canvas interface:

- spamming;
- hacking; and
- using TTU or Canvas email for commercial purposes;

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Canvas Inbox for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through Canvas, rather than by mail or email.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Canvas, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Canvas server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Canvas administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Canvas server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Canvas, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.