

## Syllabus-US Government and Politics

We will cover the following topics or/and others as the participants determine.

- I. Laying out the AP class
  - a. Course outline according to College Board
  - b. Issues of equity
  - c. Textbook/reading
  - d. Study guides, quizzes, methodology
- II. Essays
  - a. What will be on the essay?
  - b. Essay format
  - c. Bullet? Brevity? Thesis? Etc.
  - d. Building and using a rubric
  - e. Grading/scoring
- III. Constitutional Underpinnings
  - a. What do they need to know about pre-constitutional thought
  - b. What happened at the Convention?
  - c. Federalism
  - d. Why did we get the Electoral College?
  - e. Why bicameralism?
  - f. Federalist papers
- IV. Elections
  - a. Election law
  - b. Campaign finance reform
  - c. What do the kids need to know about election law?
- V. Political Ideology
  - a. How do I get the kids to understand the difference between liberals and conservatives?
  - b. How do I relate that to parties?
- VI. What are the differences between Parties and Interest Groups?
  - a. Would Madison be happy today?
  - b. Linking us to the world of politics
- VII. Congress
  - a. Why two houses?
  - b. What is the job of Congress?
  - c. Oversight
  - d. WAR and the struggle with the president
  - e. Iron triangle, sub-government and Issue networks? Why in this unit?
  - f. Implied and express powers?

VIII. Presidency

- a. What is his role?
- b. Why is he now so powerful?
- c. Can we predict the next election?
- d. What makes him powerful? Or not?
- e. Did the 2016 election follow the text book patterns?

IX. Courts

- a. What is jurisdiction?
- b. What is the role of precedent?
- c. Activism—Is it evil?
- d. Judicial restraint—Is it wonderful?
- e. Does politics enter the courtroom?

X. Bureaucracy

- a. What is it?
- b. Who cares?
- c. What are bureaucratic pathologies?

XI. Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

- a. Have we solved the problem?
- b. What is the current state of affirmative action
- c. What cases do we need to teach?
- d. The 1<sup>st</sup> amendment
- e. The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment
- f. Doctrine of incorporation
- g. Patriot Act

XII. Public policy

- a. Fiscal/monetary
- b. What is the “Public agenda?”
- c. Domestic
- d. WAR POWERS ACT

NOTE: We will attempt to cover these items and/or any item that the participants feel will help them in their classes. Please come prepared to discuss what you do in class and what areas you need help to understand or teach.

THANKS