**AP United States Government and Politics**

**COURSE SYLLABUS 2017 - 2018**

**COURSE GOALS AND DIRECTION**

The goal of this course is to increase your understanding of and participation in the American political system and pass the AP College Board Examination. Our study will focus on the framework of government and the traditions and values of American politics. We will examine in detail the processes and institutions through which the political system functions as well as some of the public policies the political system develops.

AP Government is a full year course for 1.0 high school credit. Extra consideration is given in calculating accumulative grade point averages for grades in this course as provided in the grading policy of Westerville City Schools. The College Board AP Exam for American Politics and Government offers the potential of college credit for a semester course. **All students are strongly encouraged to take the AP Exam; it is the equivalent of the second semester exam.**

**TEXTBOOKS AND READING MATERIAL**

*American Government*. **James Q. Wilson and John J. Dilulio, Jr**. (Primary textbook) 15th Edition 2017.

*American Government: Readings and Cases*. **Peter Woll.** (Supplemental readings in unit packet) *American Politics: Classic & Contemporary Readings*. **Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis**, **the Lanahan Reader** & (Supplemental readings in unit packet). **Other articles from New York Times, Real Clear Politics and Washington Post etc.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading assignments - textbook, supplemental readings, handouts.

2. Notebook - For organizing handouts, notes and assignments (optional)

3. Short written reports on readings and occasional homework questions. These critical reviews, summaries, questions, etc. are due the day they are assigned. **Late papers will receive no more than ½ credit**.

4. Participation in class lectures and discussions (**very, very important!**).

5. Occasional oral presentations and debates.

6. Quizzes and tests. Note: Some quizzes will be **open book (T/F)** and others will be **closed** **(Multiple Choice)**

7. Formal Reports - **A book review or policy review** for first semester in place of exam and a research paper on foreign policy for second semester for those ***not*** taking the College Board examination. **Students will be required to give a 3-5 minute roundtable (seminar) talk about their** **topic**. This will be during **exam** week. (1st and 2nd Semester)

8. **Regular attendance** is a necessary and proper requirement for this course. Make-up work is

Essentially self-service except for quizzes and tests. These are the responsibility of the student to

Schedule outside of class and when the teacher is free of other classes. This may mean scheduling such make-up work before or after the regular student day. Eligibility for make-up work is based on the formal school rules. The teacher also reserves the right to assign extra individual assignments when excessive absenteeism threatens a student's progress.

**GRADES**

Quarter grades will be based on student achievement in three areas and weighted as noted:

Tests and quizzes - **45**%;

Reaction papers, short reports, and question/answer assignments - **35**%:

Class participation - involvement in class discussions and activities (100 points) - **20**%

Base participation: **76** points (approximately 2 points for each day).

Volunteers: 0 - **8** points. (**Being silent in class or playing on your phone will net you zero points! Please be ready to discuss/debate/defend**

Objectivity: 0 - **8** points. (**Look at both sides) No bias!**

Insight: 0 - **8** points. (**Share something that the class and I will benefit from)**

Total: **100** points.

Semester grades will weigh the two quarter grades to count **40**% each and the grade on the semester report as **20**%.

**STUDY UNITS, TOPICS, TEXT CHAPTERS, AND SCHEDULE**

**I. AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE AND IDEOLOGY**

August 17 to September 1 (12 days)

Wilson Ch. 1 - The Study of American Government - pp. 3-19

Wilson Ch. 4 - American Political Culture - pp. 76-93

**II. THE CONSTITUTION**

Sept.5 to September 22 (14 days)

Wilson Ch. 2 - The Constitution - pp. 16-46

**III. THE FEDERAL SYSTEM**

September 25 to October 9 (11days)

Wilson Ch. 3 - Federalism - pp. 49-73

**TESTING - (2 days)**

**Friday, October 6th.**  - **50** Question Multiple Choice and 10 T/F Test - 45 min. **Chapters 1, 2, 3,** **and 4**

**Monday October 9th.**  - **2** Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes **Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4**

**All future dates will be determined as we progress through the school year**

**IV. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

(11 days)

Wilson Ch. 7 - Public Opinion - pp. 155-175

Wilson Ch. 8 - Political Participation - pp. 178-194

Wilson Ch. 11 - Interest Groups- pp. 265-287

**V. POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS**

(7 days)

Wilson Ch. 9 - Political Parties- pp. 198-229

Wilson Ch.10 - Elections and Campaigns - pp. 231-262

**Vl. THE MEDIA AND POLITICS**

(8 days)

Wilson Ch. 10 - The Media - pp. 253-280

**TESTING - (2 days)**

60 Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 min. Chapters 7 - 12

Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapters 7 -12

**Vll. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

(11 days)

Wilson Ch. 13 - Congress - pp. 317-365

**TESTING - (2 days)**

60 Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 minutes Chapter 11

Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapter 11

**MOCK SENATE**

Sometime in Early/Mid December/ Early January (5 - 10 days)

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUE DEBATES (time permitting)**

Topics to be announced and selected in January and debates conducted in May. (Usually during 4th nine weeks) **YES! We will do them this year!**

**VlIl. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

(13 days)

Wilson Ch. 14 - The Presidency- pp. 368 - 406

Wilson Ch. 15 - The Bureaucracy - pp. 410 - 433

**\*SPECIAL NOTE**: **Book review** is due on date scheduled for a semester exam (December 16 - 18). Counts for first semester final exam grade; optional oral presentation encouraged.

**TESTING - (2 days)**

**January?** - 60 Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 minutes Chapters 14 and 15

**January?** – Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapters 14 and 15

**IX. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

(17 days)

Wilson Ch. 16 - The Judiciary - pp. 438-465

**TESTING - (2 days)**

60 Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 minutes Chapter 16

Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapter 16

**MOCK TRIAL: May be re-introduced this year as a Supreme Court Case**

February (Up to 5 days)

**X. CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

(20 days, could be fewer if prior to State Testing week)

Wilson Ch. 5 - Civil Liberties- pp. 98-122

Wilson Ch. 6 - Civil Rights- pp. 125-151

**TESTING - (2 days)**

**60** Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 minutes Chapters 5 and 6

Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapters 5 and 6

**Xl. THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC POLICY/Comprehensive Review**

(10 days)

Wilson Ch. 17 - The Policy-Making Process - pp. 468-489

Wilson Ch. 18 - Economic Policy - pp. 491-509

Wilson Ch. 19 - Social Welfare - pp. 511-527

**TESTING - (2 days)**

60 Question Multiple Choice Test - 45 minutes Chapters 17, 18, and 19

Free-Response/Essay Format Test - 45 minutes Chapters 17, 18, and 19

**Xll. The Nature of American Democracy/Comprehensive Review/Wrapping up loose ends**

**Late April early May**

***Optional but recommended***: Wilson Chapters 20&22 **Foreign Policy** and **Who Governs? To** **What Ends?** - pp. 531-555 and 576-588

**THE REAL THING!**

**Thursday May 10th**. College Board AP Exam for U.S. Government and Politics (This will be an A.M. Test) 8; 00 to 12:00

60 multiple choice questions - 45 minutes

4 Free-Response Analysis questions - 100 minutes

**XlIl. ASSORTED TOPICS**

May 11 to final day for seniors

\***Research paper on Foreign Policy** (See Me for details) topic due during senior final exam (only for those who do not take the AP exam) - Grade counts for second semester final exam grade for any student not exempt from the final exam. For most students, this will be an optional assignment. **Students who do not take the AP Exam will be required to take the AIR Test in government and complete a project. It is highly recommended that students take the AP Exam.**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY: Please Read Carefully!!!!**

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material. Such

Standards are founded on the basic concepts of **honesty** and **integrity**. Students' efforts submitted for

Grading must reflect their individual levels of knowledge and accomplishment. The WNHS Student

Handbook has additional references to this important consideration