

# AP GOVERNMENT

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Room 132  
AP Classroom Code: **PN4ELX**  
Google Classroom Code: **ro7hik3**

## Course Description

AP US Government is a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to 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 U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

AP Comparative Government introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students compare the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues by examining how different governments solve similar problems. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

## Student Expectations and Norms

1. **Be Respectful:** We will be on time, prepared, mature and hold ourselves accountable for our choices and actions. We are also members of a classroom community and will support and praise each other when we actively participate.
2. **Communicate Effectively:** We will ask good questions when we are confused, and respectfully voice our opinions and needs to the class.
3. **Listen:** We will listen and remain attentive at all times
4. **Be Ambitious:** We are willing to take risks and challenge ourselves to achieve our goals. We will be open to trying new things that may be outside our comfort zone.

**The AP Exam:** Students will have the opportunity to take two Advanced Placement tests at the end of this school year. These are optional and students will be able to register for them this fall. Look for more information in the coming days from Ms. Smith in the counseling office.

- **AP US Government is on Monday, May 6th**
- **AP Comparative is on Wednesday, May 8th**

## Classroom Policies

**Attendance:** Students are expected to be in class every day. Attendance will be taken daily, and recorded to administration. In order to get the most out of class, you need to be present! Three **tardies** will earn you a detention. If you are **absent** please check the unit calendar and Google classroom. If it is unclear, feel free to email me for clarification. If you are **absent for a quiz or test**, expect to take the quiz or test the day you return from your absence. Any **absence that is unexcused** will result in a detention and loss of points for the assessment. If you miss more than 20 minutes of a class you will be marked T20 which is the same as an unexcused absence.

**Electronic Devices:** While computers and telephones are a part of how we communicate, they also can distract us and disrupt learning. **You cannot use electronic devices during class unless it is a part of an assignment. Headphones** should be taken out at the beginning of class and only used when instructed. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in parent and administrator contact.

## Course Work

**Grading:** Students' grades for this course will be in 2 main categories.

1. Formative Assessments – 20% of final grade: discussion questions, exit tickets, reading checks, simulations, reflections

2. Summative Assessments – 80% of final grade: this includes state required tests and unit exams
  - a. State Required Exams\*\*: US Constitution Test + Citizenship Test, MO Constitution Test
  - b. Unit Tests: these includes multiple choice and written “free response questions”
  - c. Current Events Presentation: student will be assigned a time frame to follow and report on current events
  - d. Final Exam: This will be a cumulative exam in a similar style to the AP test (fall semester)

**Quizzes and Exams:** All reading quizzes are open-note but timed. Unit Exams are closed-note and timed.

\*\*The state of Missouri mandates that all high school students **must pass** a US Constitution + Citizenship test and Missouri Constitution test, to graduate from high school. If students do not pass both exams with a score of 70% or higher, they will not receive credit for the course regardless of their course grade. In addition, students need to complete an End of Course Exam (EOCE) for US Government in order to graduate. The score of the EOCE will not impact a student's grade for this course and is for state data purposes only.

**Homework/Late Work Policy:** It is my expectation that work is completed on time. If you fall behind, late work will be accepted without penalty through the end of the unit. This is also important for re-take purposes (see below). I will not accept any late work beyond the end of that unit. I will not accept late submissions of projects.

Please note the following PowerSchools codes for this course:

- INS “Insufficient” = 0 → When a student does not make an attempt at an assignment or assessment. This will change when the student turns in the work.
- FM “Final Missing” = 48% The deadline for this assignment has passed and cannot be made up.
- If you attempt an assignment or assessment but don’t earn 50%, I’ll enter it as a 50% and put your actual score in the comment box

**Retake Policy:** Retakes are not allowed on any open note assessment (reading/homework quizzes). In order to be eligible for retake a student must have submitted all of the work for the assessed unit. Students may be asked to attend a review session prior to the retake. The re-take must be completed by the deadline given, regardless of absences. A maximum of 85% can be earned on the reassessment. If a student fails one of the Required State Exams, they may retake it up to 2 more times.

**Academic Integrity:** Any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating has various definitions and can look like any of the following:

- Copy and paste information from the internet into your assignment.
- “Working together” on any assignment and having the same exact word for word answers as other students.
- Asking to see another student’s paper and copying from it.
- Sharing a Google Doc assignment with another student and copying from it.
- Sending/receiving pictures of completed assignments to/from other students to copy.
- Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, etc. is explicitly prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct. Do your own work.

Any cheating will result in a ZERO/insufficient code in the gradebook. It is expected that students report cheating if they see it happening around them as it hurts the entire class.

**Use of Greyhound Time:**

Clayton High School provides a common time each day to support the academic and personal growth of students. This time may be used in a variety of ways such as academic support (tutoring, reassessment, conferences), club meetings, exercise and mental wellness activities. While students are encouraged to be proactive in meeting their academic needs, teachers may require students to come to office hours for additional assistance. The expectation is that students will prioritize their academic needs during this time. Failure to comply with teacher requests may result in a loss of privileges until their academic obligations are met.