

# AP US Government



The following descriptions represent the major concepts studied and assessed in this course.

## **Unit 1 Foundations of American Democracy**

- An understanding of America’s political system, the Constitution in action, the Bill of Rights, all other amendments, laws as they pertain to Americans. This unit will analyze the political culture in America and how that affects political institutions and the basic workings of our democracy as well as citing the reasons for implementing federalism in our democracy.

## **Unit 2 Interactions Between Branches**

- This unit will examine the main government institutions. We will take a closer look at the many roles of the President, the modern presidency compared to precedents set by other Presidents. We will analyze the Judicial Branch in our government. We will focus on the current standards set, the expectations set by judicial review and the basic workings of this branch. We will look at the duties of Congress, committee work and how interest groups affect decision making in Congress.

## **Unit 3 Civil Liberties & Civil Rights**

- Students will connect the founding principles of our government to the debates over the appropriate balance of liberty and order, noting how citizens and other groups have pursued policy solutions to protect the civil liberties and civil rights of all Americans, laying the foundation for later discussions about other ways citizens can participate in the government.

## **Unit 4 American Political Ideologies & Beliefs**

- This unit will investigate the various interest groups (there are many), their role in American politics, their significance, influence, benefits, controversies, etc. We will discuss how the immense government structure works for the American individual. How does it affect and influence the productivity and efficiency of our democracy? This unit will also analyze the media’s effect on our democracy and the ability to influence the political agenda, change the climate of campaigns and impact our overall political system. Domestic and Foreign Policy will also be analyzed through current events activities.

## **Unit 5 Political Participation**

- This unit will cover who joins, who participates, their beliefs, and programs and their impact of the election process in America. Also the electoral system and how the system affects parties’ opportunities. We’ll look back at the parities of the 1996, 2000, explore the 2004 campaigns, and 2008. In this unit we will discuss what exactly constitutes public opinion and how public opinion influences, impacts, and affects the functioning of our democracy.