

AP Government and Politics Course Syllabus

Unit 1 – Foundations of American Democracy

American Government and Politics – the Stories of Our Nation

The Constitution – A New Vision of Government

Federalism – Dividing Power between the National Government and the States

Unit 2 – The Branches of the Federal Government

Congress – Representation, Organization, and Legislation

The American Presidency – Executive Power and its Limits

The Federal Judiciary – Politics, Powers, and the “Least Dangerous” Branch

Unit 3 – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Civil Liberties – Protecting Fundamental Freedoms

Civil Rights – What is Equality?

Unit 4 – American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

American Attitudes about Government and Politics – What Americans Believe

Public Opinion – Measuring Americans’ Opinions

Political Ideology – How Beliefs Shape Our Choices

Unit 5 – Political Participation

Voting, Elections, and Campaign Finance – Elections and Voters in an Era of Demographic Change

Political Parties and Campaigns – The Powers and Limitations of Political Parties

Interest Groups and Social Movements – Collective Action, Power, and Representation

The Media – New Technologies, Opportunities, and Challenges