



# A.P. U.S. Government and Politics - (2013-2014)

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I am available before/after school in L2 OR the L Building Hallway and by appt. during period 8.

## Course Description

This is a college level course that will prepare students to take the AP exam on May 13, 2014. This course incorporates the study of the foundations, principles, structures, and functions of the United States Government. This course will emphasize a current events perspective on political issues, the legislative process, and the U.S. Constitution. Students will gain a personal awareness of individuals' rights and responsibilities as members of the community. Students will also learn economics which will be integrated into the course.



**Fees are due in the Storm Cellar:**

**NOTE:** The cost of each AP test is \$89.00. Make checks payable to RHS.

## Course Content

Foundations of American Politics

Historical background

Constitutional Underpinnings

Articles of Confederation

Constitutional Convention

Structure of Government

The Constitution

Institutions:

Executive

Legislative

Judicial

Bureaucracy

Public Policy

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Development and interpretation

Political Socialization

Political Ideology

Political Parties

Elections

Interest Groups

Iron Triangles

Media

Economics

Foundations

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

## Grading Policy

### **Passing Grades:**

100% of the Essential skills and concepts at mastery.

At least 70 % of total learning

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### **A, B, C Grades**

**Essential Skills and concepts - 70%**

**Homework/Class work - 30%**

**90% = A**

**80% = B**

**70% = C**

### **No Credit**

- Missing essential skill or concept
- Less than 70% of total learning



**TEXT**

O'Connor and Sabato, American Government Continuity and Change, Pearson/Longman

## **RHS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT HOMEWORK / GRADING POLICY**

### **Grading Policy for Essential Skills (Tests/Projects/Essays)**

Essential skills and concepts will be graded in the following manner:

1. Tests/projects/essays completed on time and earning **greater** than 50% will receive a grade of 70% upon attainment of mastery.
2. Tests/projects/essays which are not completed on time or earn **less** than 50% will receive a grade of 60% upon attainment of mastery.
3. All projects/essays must be turned in on the due date regardless of absence.
4. Students absent on the day of a test will be expected to make up that test upon their return.

### **Grading Policy for other course work**

I accept late work for 50% credit until the end of the current unit of study. Late work may be accepted beyond the end of the unit at teacher discretion.

\*\*\*The student's grade will be derived from an average of all work completed during each unit of study and based on the following breakdown:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
69% or below	NO CREDIT / course must be retaken

### **Approximate breakdown of coursework:**

Required/Essential skills (test and projects)	70%
Other course work	30%

### **Social Studies Grade Comment Key**

1. Essential Skill not passing but must be made-up. NM
2. Non Essential Skill cannot be made up. 0
3. Not Taken/Not Turned In or No Name Mi (Missing)
4. Absent can be made up Ab
5. Excused Ex