

**AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
MR. CHAD POTTER**

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COURSE INFORMATION: This college-level course is an introduction to United States government and politics. We will study government institutions and political processes and examine policy choices. The institutions and policies of United States Government will be considered in light of historical change, constitutional procedures, and comparative perspectives.

TEXTS AND READINGS:

Wilson, Dilulio, *American Government: Institutions & Policies*, 12th ed., Boston: Wadsworth, 2011.

Woll, Peter, et al. *American Government: Readings and Cases*, 16th ed., New York: Pearson Longman, 2006.

Photocopies handouts will supplement text readings.

TEACHING METHODS: Students will learn through lectures, class discussions, guided reading, debates, current events reports, and student-led seminars.

GRADING: Grades are calculated using a point system. Grading on multiple choice and free response essays is consistent with scoring on the AP Exam. Most course work will be worth 20-25 points. Current events reports are worth 80 points. Course work is 50% of the semester grade. Exams will be worth 40%, and the final exam is worth 10% of the semester grade.

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY: AP classes are fun and interesting, because students have the opportunity to learn a great deal of material in depth. There are three goals for this course: (1) encourage students to develop a genuine interest in government and politics, (2) prepare students to succeed in college, and (3) prepare students to do well on the AP exam.