

**AS YOU WILL EXPERIENCE NEXT YEAR IN COLLEGE, A SYLLABUS SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT TOOL LOADED WITH ESSENTIAL INFO YOU NEED IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN A COURSE.
KEEP THIS SYLLABUS IN THE FRONT OF THE AP GOV SECTION OF YOUR BINDER AT ALL TIMES!**

Teacher: Mrs. Tsai
Email: STsai@laalliance.org

Room: TBD
Office Hours: Mon., 3:30-4:30

Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics Syllabus - Fall 2013

Course Website: <http://govlover.weebly.com/> (bookmark it!)

All coursework completed in AP Gov will be aimed towards:

- 1) increasing your knowledge of United States government and politics
- 2) fulfilling the CA state graduation requirement for Government
- 3) preparing you for the AP Gov & Politics exam on Tuesday, May 13th, 2014
- 4) further preparing you socially and intellectually for success in college and the world beyond

Required Daily Course Materials:

- ✓ 3-ring binder (*brought to class daily, even on Wednesdays!*)
- ✓ Monthly HW/Participation calendar (*provided to you by Mrs. Tsai at the beginning of each unit*)
- ✓ All coursework for the current unit of study (*organized chronologically in AP Gov section of binder*)
- ✓ Mini Constitution (*provided by Mrs. Tsai*)
- ✓ Pens and highlighters

Additional Course Materials:

- ✓ Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, 15th edition (*provided by ESAT; used at home*)
- ✓ AP GOV Crash Course (*provided by ESAT; to be used in preparation for assessments*)
- ✓ Weekly access to internet (*for emails from Mrs. Tsai regarding announcements. Also, to access quia.com, mypoliscilab.com, hippocampus.org, and our course website. If this is a problem, please let me know ASAP so that we can arrange alternative solutions.*)

Recommended Course Materials:

- ✓ Index cards for vocabulary (*You will need at least 500 to cover new terms*)
- ✓ AP Gov Exam Prep Materials (*5 Steps book or iphone/ipod practice test and flashcard apps*)

Grading Policy for Fall 2013 Semester:

All grading will be 100% standards based. In AP, this means that your grade will be based mostly on multiple choice and written exams (all cumulative), papers, and projects, just as you will experience in college courses. Additionally, there will be quizzes and Socratic Seminars counted in your semester grade. Grades will be translated into Pinnacle grades using the following ESAT-wide scale:

Level of Mastery	% of pts. earned	Grades entered in Pinnacle
<i>Advanced</i>	(100 – 90 %)	4.0 to 3.4
<i>Proficient</i>	(89 – 80 %)	3.3 to 2.7
<i>Basic</i>	(79 – 70 %)	2.6 to 2
<i>Below Basic</i>	(69% - 0%)	1.9 to 1.0 (<i>Not Passing</i>)
<i>Zero Effort</i>	(Never submitted)	Z (<i>Counts as a 0</i>)

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COLLEGE-READY EXPECTATIONS FOR AP GOV & POLITICS:

- **ACADEMIC HONESTY:** You will not cheat, plagiarize professional works/online sources, or copy the work of your peers. This includes not only tests but reading notes, class work, Quia, and group work. Everything must be in your own words or cited appropriately to give credit to the original author.
- **PARTICIPATION & COLLABORATION:** As this is a college level course, you will actively participate in class discussions, be respectful of your teacher and peers, collaborate with each other, and behave in a manner consistent with that of a college classroom setting.
- **ACTIVE READING:** Reading is not optional! Reading = AP exam and course success. As the Government course is a graduation requirement for the state of CA, it is imperative that you read, and annotate and/or take notes on all assigned readings in order to pass the assessments for this class. Additionally, why sign up for AP if you don't want to do the work? You are expected to read and take notes on approximately one chapter per week from your textbook and/or supplemental readings. To assess your understanding of the reading, you will take weekly chapter Quia.com quizzes and participate in Socratic seminars, discussions, projects, and simulations.
- **HIGH QUALITY WORK:** Failure to thoroughly complete your reading notes and any other homework or classwork will result in additional work being assigned specifically to you. Frequently missed or incomplete work will result in a parent conference. If you fail a unit exam, you will be asked to complete an additional assessment to demonstrate proficiency on the standards.
- **ORGANIZATION:** Bring all of your current unit work with you to class each day. It must be organized chronologically in your binder. Put your name and appropriate labels on all work, including daily reading notes. Write legibly! I will not waste time deciphering handwriting. All unit work will be submitted in a portfolio on the day of each unit exam.
- **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION:**
 - ❖ **Missing Class:** As in college, if you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for gathering any information covered that day (reference your calendar, the website, ask a classmate, and look for extra handouts in class. Cover all of your bases.)
 - ***If you know you in advance that you will be absent:***
Let Mrs. Tsai (and all of your teachers) know. You will always know exam dates and important dates well in advance, so let me know so that we can arrange make-up work.
 - ***If you are unexpectedly absent (illness or family emergency):***
Just like you would for a job, if you can not show up, you must "call in sick". This can be done via email to Mrs. Tsai (or a mass email to all of your teachers for that day) or a call to the office to report your absence and ask that the message be relayed to your teachers. Besides merely stating that you will not be in class, you must also acknowledge any work, projects, quizzes, or exams which you have missed and request to submit them/make them up within 3 days of when you return.
 - ❖ **Email:** Emails must be written in a professional manner acceptable at the collegiate level. If there is no subject or it says "Heyyyy" or "Ummm????", I will assume it is spam.


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❖ **Restroom Policy:** You will be allotted the following two Bathroom Passes per semester. If you don't have this syllabus with you, you will not be able to redeem your passes unless it is an absolute emergency.

Semester 1 Bathroom Pass	Semester 1 Bathroom Pass	Bathroom Pass Procedures
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As discreetly as possible, take out your syllabus & have it open to this page. 2. Hand it to Mrs. Tsai and go to the restroom. 3. Return to class as quickly as possible without disrupting anyone's learning. 4. File your syllabus in your 3-ring binder.

❖ **"Off-Day" Policy:** Everyone has an off-day every now and then and, as an ESAT Senior in AP courses, you are under a lot of pressure. As my courtesy to you, you will be allowed one excused, guilt-free "off-day" per semester, however, there are restrictions. To be clear, an "off day" can NOT be used on the date of a major assessment (exam, project, presentation, etc.) but can be used if you:

- forgot to bring your materials or complete your homework
- are dealing with emotional drama or can't focus on making effective contributions to class discussion
- are feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, distracted, headachy, sick, etc.

Semester 1 "Off Day" Pass	"Off Day" Pass Policy
<p>© Original Artist Reproduction rights obtainable from www.CartoonStock.com</p>  <p>Search ID: jmo0569</p> <p>Morris</p> <p>"Well, according to my records Tomkins, this is your grandmother's seventh funeral."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As discreetly as possible, take out your syllabus & have it open to this page. 2. Hand it to Mrs. Tsai to communicate that you are having an "Off Day." 3. Stay alert and on-task throughout class without disrupting anyone's learning. You will not be exempted from work production but will be excused from class discussion and/or intensive group work for that day. 4. File your syllabus in your 3-ring binder.

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AP GOVERNMENT & POLITICS Curriculum Outline for Fall 2013

Content Area (for MC section)

Month/Chapters

<i>UNIT 1: Constitutional Underpinnings of US Government</i> A. Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Const. B. Separation of powers C. Checks and balances D. Federalism E. Theories of democratic government	August Ch. 1, 2, 3 <i>Unit Exam:</i> Wed. 9/4
<i>UNIT 2: Political Beliefs/Behaviors and Linkage Institutions: Parties & Interest Groups</i> A. Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders B. Processes by which citizens learn about politics C. The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion D. The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life E. Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in their political beliefs and behaviors F. Political parties <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functions Organization Development Effects on the political process G. Interest groups, including political action committees (PACs) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The range of interests represented The activities of interest groups The effects of interest groups on the political process The unique characteristics and roles of PACs in the political process 	September Ch. 6, 8, 11 <i>Unit 1-2 Exam/BM:</i> Tues. 10/1
<i>UNIT 3: Linkage Institutions, part II: Media, Primaries, and Elections</i> A. The mass media <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The functions and structures of the news media The impacts of the news media on politics The news media industry and its consequences B. Primaries and Elections <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functions Organization Development Effects on the political process Electoral laws and systems 	October Ch. 7, 9, 10 <i>Unit 1-3 Exam:</i> Fri. 11/1
<i>UNIT 4: The Judiciary, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights</i> A. The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of power B. Relationships among institutions and varying balances of power C. Linkages between the Judiciary and the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public opinion and voters Interest groups Political parties The media State and local governments D. The development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation E. Knowledge of substantive rights and liberties F. The impact of the 14th Amendment on the constitutional development of rights and liberties	Nov.- Dec. Ch. 16, 4, 5 <i>Unit 1-4 Exam:</i> Tues. 12/3 <i>Unit 1-4 Final/BM:</i> Tues. 12/17

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How is the AP Exam you will take on Tuesday, May 13th, 2014 at 8am structured, timed, and scored?

	# of questions	Timing	Pts. possible	How is it scored?
MC Section (50% of exam)	60 (5 answer options each)	45 secs per question (45 mins. total)	60	1 pt. per correct answer. No extra penalties for guessing. If you don't know, eliminate and choose your best guess.
FRQ Section (50% of exam)	4 (No choice. You must answer all 4.)	25 mins. each (100 mins. total)	60 (15 pts. possible per FRQ, regardless of # of parts or commands)	Unlike APUSH, there aren't any rubric points assigned to organization, a pretty thesis, or any fluff. Your responses will be graded objectively based only on the following criteria: Did you respond accurately and thoroughly to each part of the prompt?
Total:	64	2 hrs. 25 mins	120	As with all AP exams, the entire AP exam is out of a possible score of 5. Scores of 3 or above are considered passing however not all colleges accept 3s for college credit, thus, we are aiming for 4s and 5s. College Board changes the total points needed to earn a 3,4, or 5 based on the performance of all students on each annual test.

AP Exam Score	2013 Global AP GOV Results	2013 ESAT AP GOV Results
5 = Extremely well-qualified (equivalent of an A in a freshman college course)	11.2%	
4 = Well qualified (equivalent of a B)	14.3%	
3 = Qualified (equivalent of a C)	26.2%	
2 = Possibly qualified (not passing; no college credit)	24.9%	
1 = No recommendation (not passing; no college credit)	23.4%	

Educational research has shown that the exposure of high school students to Advanced Placement courses (regardless of whether or not they even pass the AP exam) increases the likelihood that the students will perform well in college coursework and maintain enrollment in college. I expect ALL of you to put forth maximum effort to prepare for and pass the AP exam and become increasingly college-ready throughout the course.

Name: _____

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Opportunities for learning outside of regular class hours:

AP Gov Lovers Tutoring: Throughout the year, I will be providing weekly afterschool tutoring, unit review sessions, and possibly some film viewings in order to enhance your learning experience. In addition to the reinforced content you will receive during this time, I will also provide you with supplemental study materials and/or classroom privileges in exchange for attending. During afterschool sessions, off-task or disrespectful students will be asked to leave.

Outside of course requirements, I recommend that you use the class website to access additional resources. Reading, listening to, and watching the news via the Internet, news, Sunday cable political shows, newspapers (i.e. LA or NY Times), news magazines (i.e. Time), political blogs, and radio shows will greatly aid in your understanding of government and politics and increase your ability to contribute to high-level class discussion. I also *very strongly* recommend purchasing an AP Government and Politics Study App.

_____ (Get parent info/signature and return the form below by Fri. 8/9) _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Form:

Student's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian's name(s): _____

Email address or phone #: _____

Would you like copies of the monthly course calendar? (check one)

☐ Yes, please email me a copy to _____

☐ Yes, please send an extra copy home with the student.

☐ No, thanks. I will access them on the course website <http://govlover.weebly.com/>
or ask my student to see their copy.

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

----- (Parents: Detach this bottom portion and keep so that you have my contact information) -----

Feel free to contact me via email STsai@LaAlliance.org regarding your student's progress in AP Government. You can reach me by phone through the ESAT office at: 323-739-0560. Our course website is: <http://govlover.weebly.com/>

I look forward to working with you to ensure your child's success!

Sincerely, Stephanie Tsai



Name: _____

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