

**AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**Economics and International Relations**

**Course Overview:**

This is a year-long course that satisfies state and district requirements for the study of government, economics and international relations. Specifically, the course provides an intensive study of American government and politics in preparation for the AP US Government and Politics exam.

The course begins with a brief survey of key concepts in micro and macroeconomics. The AP Government and Politics portion of the course is divided into five units of study; Introduction, Constitutional Foundations and Federalism, Political Processes and Linkage Institutions, Executive Branch and Bureaucracy, Congress and Policy Making and Courts, Rights and Liberties. At the conclusion of the AP Exam, students are exposed to a regional study of the history of US relations with the regions as a background to current issues in the areas of Europe, Middle East, Pacific Rim, Africa and Latin America.

**Texts:**

O'Connor, Karen and Sabato, Larry, American Government:Continuity and Change, New York, Pearson and Longman, 2006 edition

Woll, Peter, American Government:Readings and Cases, New York, Pearson and Longman, 16<sup>th</sup> edition

O'Sullivan and Sheffrin, Economics:Principles in Action, Prentice Hall, New York, 2003  
World Politics:Annual Editions 2006 and 2007 , Dushkin Publishing

**Grading:**

- Tests: Four each semester at 300 points each, half essay and half multiple choice
- Assignments: (readings, quizzes, answering questions, case briefs) about 60
  - Each semester for 10 and 30 points each for a total of around 1200 points
- Bill Research: (second semester) 200 points
  - Students will propose a bill, research arguments for it, discuss legal,
  - Constitutional and political ramifications of the proposal and account
  - for interest group and party support and opposition. Minimum 1000 words
- Participation: approximately 10% each semester, around 260-280 points
- Total Points: each semester between 2600-3000

Since this is an AP class, the assumption is that the students are interested in and capable of doing UNIVERSITY level work. The instructor expects that students will be prepared each day. Though a relaxed and positive atmosphere will be provided, students who are unwilling or unable to take the level of work and responsibility seriously will be asked to transfer out. It is a privilege and not a right to be in AP

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Government!! Any student getting a D or F at the semester will NOT be allowed to continue.

Grades are computed on a standard percentage scale of total points available. Curves are for baseball and beauty contests, not standards based assessment. There is no rounding up, since there will be some extra credit available to help with borderline grades.

**NO late work** accepted other than for excused absence. Absent work is to be turned in by the number of days absent. That is, if you are out 3 days excused, the work must be turned in on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Work is due at the beginning of the period and MAY NOT be done IN CLASS unless directed to do so.

**Make up tests** will be given the next block day attended .

**Make up quizzes** are to be taken during the next period or next tutorial

**International Relations Test and Final Second Semester Grade** Due to the extra credit available, NO ONE can receive an "A" in class for final second semester grade who does not receive at least a B- on The International Relations Test.

**Extra Credit:** Some will be offered to encourage supplemental reading and study and in connection with review time for AP exam. However, if you have more than 5 tardies in a semester all extra credit will be taken away!!

**School Loop:** Grades will be uploaded several times each week. You and your parents can access your grade DAILY. Following each test, you will be asked to sign a paper indicating that you have had daily opportunities to access your grade and fix any errors. Your signature will indicate your agreement , that neither you nor your parent(s) will dispute the accuracy of your grade up to that point. This eliminates any "last minute" pleas that involve phrases like, "what can I do about my grade?" or "I won't get in to Stanford unless.."

**Tardy Policy:** The first five tardies are handled by the instructor alone. Six and beyond will be referred to the administration, in addition to the consequences listed blow. The first three tardies are "free". The fourth causes a 15% loss of participation for semester, five tardies is 25% loss, six tardies a 50% loss, 7 is 75% and 8 is 100% loss of all semester participation points.

**AP Exam:** Students are expected to take the exam. Students who do not, for financial or university credit reasons, will take a similar exam issued by the instructor for 300 additional points for their semester total.

**Academic Responsibility:** Students are expected to have honesty and integrity. YOU WILL NOT copy homework, cheat on exam, etc. I have ZERO tolerance for people who are unethical and you will be promptly removed from the class.

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**ASB, cheer, club and athletic activities:** Many of you are active, involved students and you should be commended for that. However, learning to plan, schedule and prioritize are real life, necessary skills. This academic class takes precedence over the above activities. YOU MAY NOT miss this class for one of the those activities without clearing it with me AHEAD OF TIME. You risk not being allowed to make up missed material if you fail to do so. COMMUNICATION is the key here. Reasonable requests, AHEAD OF TIME are rarely denied.

**In class stuff:** Food and drink are fine as long as you stay neat and clean with it. Use the trash cans and keep the room clean or you will lose the privilege. NO CELL PHONES NO CELL PHONES NO CELL PHONES NO CELL PHONES NO CELL PHONES.

**2009-2010 Teacher information:**

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