

**ROBERT S. WELCH CENTER FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES  
GOUCHER COLLEGE  
TEACHERS' INSTITUTE  
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**SYLLABUS**

AP 536.100 Preparing Students for the AP Exam: United States Government and Politics  
Monday, June 19 – Friday, June 23, 2017  
8:30AM – 4:00PM (Mon. – Thurs.)  
8:30AM – 1:00PM (Friday)

**Course Description:**

This course provides teachers with an overview of the basic structure and content necessary for an AP course in Government and Politics: United States. The instructor will focus on the development of the content for each of the six units included in the course as well as the development of essential questions, course objectives, learning activities, teaching strategies, and the use of multiple resources. Emphasis will be placed on preparing students for the AP examination. An analysis of past AP examinations will be included as well as a review of the standards established for the grading of the annual exams. A major portion of the course is devoted to the development of units for an AP U.S. Government and Politics course by participants, including the resources necessary for the implementation of such a course. Transitioning to the proposed course revisions and exam format will also be included. This course is suitable for teachers new to AP U. S. Government and Politics as well as those experienced in the teaching of the course. The course will include a "best practices" sharing session and participants are encouraged to bring a copy of a favorite lesson/activity/strategy they have used in, or that could be adapted to, an AP U.S. Government and Politics course. If participants already are teaching the course, or know the textbook and/or any other books they will be using, they should bring these as well.

**Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

- Develop a curriculum for an AP U. S. Government and Politics course.
- Understand the content of each unit within the AP U. S. Government and Politics course and proposed revisions for the course.
- Develop unit guides for each unit within the AP U. S. Government and Politics course.
- Develop an awareness of the texts and materials available for teaching the AP U. S. Government and Politics course.
- Understand and improve teaching techniques and strategies appropriate for teaching an AP U. S. Government and Politics course.

- Develop strategies for preparing students to take the AP U. S. Government and Politics examination.

**Attendance Policy:**

If you are taking the course for credit, no absences/late arrivals are permitted. You must attend all five days to receive graduate credit.

**Contact:**

Prior to the first day of class instructor may be contacted via e-mail.

Dr. Maria E. Schmidt ([meschmidt7@earthlink.net](mailto:meschmidt7@earthlink.net))

**Texts:**

If you know the textbook you will be using for your course, please bring it with you as well as any supplemental texts/readers you will be using. In addition, please bring a favorite lesson you have used (in any course you have taught that may be adaptable to this course) to share as part of our 'best practices' session.

**Details:**

Monday, June 19, 2017

- Introductory Exercise
- Overview of the Advanced Placement (AP) Program/Program Updates/Proposed Course Revisions
- Student Selection for the AP Program/Equity and Access to AP
- AP Course Audit
- Content of Courses in AP United States Government and Politics/Review of Topic Outline
- Planning and Developing Unit Guides for AP U. S. Government and Politics
- Review of Resources for Teaching AP Courses in U. S. Government and Politics
- Textbook Content Correlation
- The Advanced Placement Examination: Preparing Your Students for the Multiple Choice and Free-Response Questions/Skills and Content Assessed/Scoring/Self-Diagnostic/Methods of Review

- Using Past Exam Questions to Teach AP U. S. Government and Politics/Correlation of Past Free-Response Questions to Curriculum

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

- The Advanced Placement “Reading”
- Mastering the Free-Response Portion of the AP U. S. Government and Politics Examination
- Development of Rubrics and Sample Grading of the Free-Response Portion of the AP U. S. Government and Politics Examination
- Techniques and Strategies for Teaching the AP U. S. Government and Politics Course: Assignments that Enhance Skills for Success on the AP Exam/Analyzing Political Cartoons, Tables, Charts and Graphs
- Transitioning to the Proposed Courts Revisions and Exam Format
- Computer Lab Activities: AP Central/Textbook and other Internet Resources
- Planning and Developing Unit Guides for AP U. S. Government and Politics (continued)

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

- Sample Grading of the Free Response Portion of the AP U. S. Government and Politics Examination (continued)
- Importance of Critical Thinking Skills in AP Courses: Effective Strategies for Improving Critical Thinking/Reading Skills
- Planning and Developing Units for the Advanced Placement Government and Politics Course (continued)
- Computer Lab Work Session for Developing Unit Guides

Thursday, June 22, 2017

- “Best Practices” Session

- Lessons and Strategies for Diverse Student Audiences
- Correlating Lessons to Specific Exam Content
- Planning and Developing Units for the Advanced Placement U. S. Government and Politics Course (continued)
- Computer Lab Work Session for Developing Unit Guides (continued)

Friday, June 23, 2017

- Presentation of Unit Guides for the AP U. S. Government and Politics Course
- Implementing Ideas from the Institute in School Settings
- Debriefing/Evaluations

### **Bibliography:**

#### SUGGESTED READINGS

##### Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government

Farrand, Max. *The Framing of the Constitution of the United States*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1913.

Dye, Thomas R. *Who's Running America: The Bush Restoration*, 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Grodzins, Morton. *The American System*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1966.

Conlon, Timothy. *From New Federalism to Devolution*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1998.

##### Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 1963.

Erickson, Robert S., and Kent Tedin. *American Public Opinion*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995.

Nie, Norman, Sidney Verba, and John Petrocik. *The Changing American Voter*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976.

Conway, M. Margaret. *Political Participation in America*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 1991.

#### Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media

Beck, Paul, and Marjorie Hershey. *Party Politics in America*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2001.

Truman, David B. *The Governmental Process*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Knopf, 1971.

Cigler, Allan J, and Burdett A. Loomis, eds. *Interest Group Politics*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2002.

Graber, Doris A. *Mass Media and American Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington, D.C. Congressional Quarterly Press, 1989.

#### Institutions of the National Government: the Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Federal Courts

Davidson, Roger H., and Walter J. Oleszek. *Congress and Its Members*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2000.

Neustadt, Richard E. *Presidential Power: The Politics of Leadership*, rev. ed. New York: Wiley, 1976.

Wilson, James Q. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. New York: Basic Books, 1989.

Abraham, Henry J. *The Judicial Process*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford, 1993,

#### Public Policy

Kingdom, John W. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1984.

Rubin, Irene S. *The Politics of Public Budgeting*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Chatham House, 2000.

Hastedt, Glenn P. *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000.

Murray, Charles. *Losing Ground: American Social Policy, 1950-1980*. New York: Basic Books, 1984.

### Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Sullivan, Harold J. *Civil Rights and Liberties: Provocative Questions and Evolving Answers*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001.

Epstein, Lee, and Thomas G. Walker. *Constitutional Law for a Changing America: Rights, Liberties, and Justice*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2001.

Barker, Lucius J., and Mack H. Jones. *African Americans and the American Political System*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1999.

McGlen, Nancy E., and Karen O'Conner. *Women, Politics, and American Society*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1996.

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### **Instructions to receive a transcript of credits earned after the completion of the course:**

Goucher College does not issue grade reports. You can obtain your grade approximately 3 weeks after concluding the course by going to the myGoucher website (myGoucher) and following the prompts to receive your grade. If you have misplaced your password, please contact the help desk (helpdesk@goucher.edu) and they will help you through this procedure.

If you need a paper copy of grades for tuition reimbursement, you will need to request a transcript in writing. You can fax your request to Student Administrative Services (SAS) at 410-337-6504 or mail to SAS at:

Goucher College, SAS  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, MD 21204

There is no charge for this request. Please allow 3-5 working days to process. To access the transcript request form, please go to <http://www.goucher.edu/x1891.xml>

Questions? Please call 410-337-6200.