

Tracy K. Nondorf

Paradise Honors High School / Surprise, AZ

- Room: B103
- Phone: (623)455-7400 ext. 7453
- Email: tnondorf@paradiseschools.org

Tutoring Availability:

- **Before and Afterschool** by appointment as needed (no tutoring after school on WED due to staff professional development. Let me know you need help, and we will find a time!

Honors Government and Politics Syllabus

Welcome to Honors Government and Politics! The following information will give you some background on the A.P. Government and Politics U.S. test. Following that, you will see the course pacing guide.

Course description:

Honors U.S. Government and Politics provides an honors level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States.

Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, current events and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.

**The primary GOAL of Honors Government and Politics is for students to
THINK LIKE A POLITICAL SCIENTIST!**

- **PARENTS and students should note that the discussion of politics can often be emotional. Students will be encouraged to participate in classroom discussions that allow for an expression of their political views and opinions in a CIVIL and RESPECTFUL manner. This means that students will need to LISTEN to their peers, even when they don't agree with them!**
- **PARENTS and students should also note, that many of materials that we use in this class will be deal with content that may challenge what the students think and believe. We will be discussing controversial topics like the legalization of marijuana, gay marriage, and abortion. These topics are ALL found in the AP curriculum, and students will be encouraged to look at issues from both sides of the political spectrum, so that we can analyze the actions of government and policy makers today.**

Students are encouraged to approach the class with an open mind!

COURSE UNITS / Honors U.S. Government and Politics course is organized around five units, which focus on major topics in U.S. government and politics. I will divide these large units into smaller, more manageable chunks.

- Foundations of American Democracy
 - Origins and Framework of the Constitution – 2 tests
 - Federalism – 1 test
- Interaction Among Branches of Government - 2 tests / one for each unit
 - The Legislative Branch – Congress and Policymaking
 - The Executive Branch – The President and Bureaucracy
- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs – 1 test
 - Political Ideology and Political Socialization
 - The Political Parties – structure and roles of
- Political Participation – 1 test
 - Voters, Voting and Voting Behavior

- Running for Office in the USA:
- Includes the role of the media and interest groups
- Campaign finance
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights– 2 tests, one on the courts, one on civil liberties / rights
 - The Judicial Branch – The Courts
 - Civil Rights vs. Civil Liberties – how are they different
 - Methods for insuring Civil Rights in the United States

Classroom Assessments: I will break down the content of the course into units of study. Students will take a unit test after each of the content blocks above. Tests will include multiple choice and essay questions.

- **Unit tests** will be given at the end of the unit. Students will be expected to answer questions that include source material which requires analysis.
- **Vocabulary and Main Idea Quizzes** will be given on a weekly to bi-weekly basis – to insure that students are developing the vocabulary necessary to take the unit tests, and to help students to learn the content.

Assessment / Technology:

- Most of our in-class quizzes on vocabulary and reading content will be done via QUIA, an online testing service. This allows students to take a quiz – and get immediate feedback.
 - Test retakes will be allowed during the first quarter – but students will get randomized quizzes. This ensures that they have really grasped the content vs. “memorizing” the questions on their first version of the quiz.
 - Quia may also be used for unit tests – which would be given over a 3 day window. Students are expected to take the tests in that allotted time, failure to do so may mean a loss of credit.
- The teacher will endeavor to ensure that we have access to Chromebooks on testing dates – but students may need to have their own devices (cell phone, tablet, or laptop). Advance warning of quizzes will always be given.

TEST CORRECTIONS:

- **Students will be allowed to retake vocabulary and main idea quizzes in the FIRST QUARTER ONLY** – these can be retaken for full credit – if the grade is lower the 2nd time, the student will get that grade. Students should STUDY prior to retaking any quiz.
 - **These retakes MUST be done AFTER SCHOOL – and students must show the teacher their book notes and vocabulary lists prior to retaking the quiz.**
 - **NO RETAKES will be allowed after the first quarter** – students MUST do the classroom reading, and be prepared for the quizzes.
- **TEST corrections will be allowed on the FIRST UNIT TEST ONLY.** Students will need to learn to prepare for the tests – doing the reading, taking notes in class, and mastering the necessary vocabulary and concepts.
 - **After the first test** – student will be allowed to make corrections for 50% added credit.
 - Tutoring is available MOST days before and after school, if students are struggling, they should come for help!

Text: Being in an honors level course means working above the average level – this means being able to read and analyze text information, key political documents and news stories. To help supplement these skills, I am asking all students to purchase a moderately priced text for the class.

Wolford David, Amsco – United States Government and Politics, Perfection Learning: 2019.

- Students will need to purchase the PAPER version of the book – there is however a “bundle” option that allows students to get both the print and e-copy, this would mean the student does not need to lug the book back and forth to school.
- <https://www.perfectionlearning.com/social-studies/advanced-placement/united-states-government-politics-ap-exam.html>

Text Supplements: Students will use a variety of supplemental sources including: current news articles, and primary sources (Supreme Court Cases, federal laws, speeches, etc.).

The course also expects students to have knowledge of key sources integral to the study of the American political system, thus students will focus on:

- **Foundational documents and Supreme Court cases are an integral part of the course** and necessary for students to understand the philosophical underpinnings, significant legal precedents, and political values of the U.S. political system. In Honors Government – we will focus on the Declaration of Independence, and United States Constitution – but may also read other foundational documents like The Federalist Papers, etc.
- **Possible Supreme Court Cases [CR15: Supreme Court cases]** This course will incorporate the analysis of the many Supreme Court cases – some of these may include: • Marbury v. Madison (1803) • McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) • Schenck v. United States (1919) • Brown v. Board of Education (1954) • Baker v. Carr (1961) • Engel v. Vitale (1962) • Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) • Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969) • New York Times Company v. United States (1971) AP® United States Government and Politics: Sample Syllabus 1.4 • Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972) • Roe v. Wade (1973) • Shaw v. Reno (1993) • United States v. Lopez (1995) • McDonald v. Chicago (2010) • Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) (2010) —
- **CURRENT EVENTS** – students will be expected to keep up with the news and to present current events that corresponds to units of study. They will also read teacher provided articles related to current events. Students **MUST** be able to LINK the content of class to REAL LIFE scenarios to be successful in Honors Government, current events are an integral part of that process.

Course Objectives and Disciplinary Practices:

Upon completion of this class students will be able to:

- Apply political concepts and processes to scenarios in context
- Apply Supreme Court decisions
- Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics
- Read, analyze, and interpret foundational documents and other text-based and visual sources
- Develop an argument in essay format

Course Basics: grading and work ethic

Grading Scale: Grades are determined by following a standard percentage breakdown as follows:

- **90-100% A (4.00)**
- **80-89% B (3.00)**
- **70-79% C (2.00)**
- **<69% Failing***
- This is the school grading scale, it will not be varied. No credit shall be earned if a student fails to achieve 70% or higher. No extra credit will be given.

Assessments and assignments will be weighted as follows:

- Final Exam 15%
- Tests/Quizzes/Papers 60%
- Class work/Projects/Homework 25%

Homework / Make-up Work / Due Dates:

To be successful in this class, students will need to be responsible for doing work at home as well as in school. **To be successful, students should:**

- know that they will need to complete independent work outside of class and know that the pace of learning will be faster than those of honors or regular track classes.
 - Most of the class homework is **READING** the class text – students are urged to read and take notes from their text, develop vocabulary lists – and **KEEP UP!** Don't get behind, pace yourselves!
- understand a high level of independent study is required on their part.
- **spend 30 minutes to 1 hour outside of class everyday** if they spread out the work appropriately – this homework will be mostly reading, reviewing materials, and doing independent research for projects.

- read approximately 20 - 40 pages of text per week. They will need to read thoughtfully, **taking notes**, and developing a vocabulary list for each chapter.
- read numerous primary sources and supplemental readings throughout the course.

If students are to be successful, they will need to do all the assigned work and meet all deadlines.

- As per the PHS Student Handbook, classwork or homework that IS NOT handed in on the day due is LATE and will have **25% deducted**, and will be accepted up to ONE DAY LATE.
 - Work between **2-5 days late will have 50% deducted**
 - Work that is **more than 5 days late WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**
 - Students may be assigned an ASD for missing work- the ASD will be served with the teacher. f
- **LATE WORK / DUE TO ABSENCE:** will be accepted for excused student absences and illness.
 - Students will be **expected to get work that they missed from the teacher, and to make up all late work within ONE WEEK of their return to school**. If more time is needed, it is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to come and talk to the teacher to extend the deadline.
 - If absent work does not come in within one week **NO CREDIT** will be given.
 - **Students who miss a test or quiz will have ONE WEEK to make this up** – after one week the assessment can no longer be made up and no credit will be given.
 - **Students who are chronically absent on testing dates should expect that their parents will be notified, and that they may receive a make-up test** as opposed to taking the regular class test. This will be done to insure the integrity of the test.
- **ASD – After School Detention** – will be assigned for all written essays and long-term projects that are handed in late. Students will lose 25% of their grade and must have the assignment in by the next class day, or they will be assigned an **ASD WITH THE TEACHER in B103** – they will complete the work in that ASD, and will receive only 50% credit on the assignment.

Course Basis: classroom behavior and RULES!

Education is in many ways about RESPECT. If you want me to respect you as a student in my class, then I will expect certain behavior. In turn, you can expect certain behavior from me, which will hopefully earn me your respect. The following rules apply to all students in all school-related situations and hopefully beyond. Failure to adhere to these rules during school hours may result in various consequences, ranging from loss of privileges to a referral.

Classroom Participation / Open Mindedness:

Students who participate are more engaged in a class overall. So, I encourage all students to participate in class discussion, group activities, Socratic seminars, etc. Since we will be discussing politics – it is important to respect all your fellow students and their opinions.

Students should also be cautioned that this class will deal with many contemporary issues – some of which are controversial. Students are encouraged to engage in class discussions, be respectful of your peers, and to have an open mind. No one is trying to make you think a certain way – just be open to participating in the discussion and learning something!

Cheating and Plagiarism:

All graded work must be entirely a student's own. Any attempt to pass off someone else's ideas as someone's own without proper citation is considered plagiarism. Offenders caught cheating on any test or quiz, or who plagiarize any written assignment in whole or in part, will receive ZERO credit and face administrative consequences.

- As we practice the argumentative essay format – students should be careful to credit their sources to avoid plagiarism.

I will maintain a simple website for the class, but will put most assignments and work on Google Classroom – this will include links to assignments, reading materials, etc.

- All students must join our Google classroom page by the end of the first week of class.

Technology

Please refer to the student handbook for the technology student use policy. Students may bring technology, including laptops and tablets, to support learning. In some instances, a smartphone will be a valuable tool for instruction (at teacher discretion).

- Students are NOT allowed to have / use earbuds or headphones on in class – unless at the teacher’s direction.
- Students are NOT allowed to have phones out (they should be put away and off)– unless at the teacher’s direction.
- Students who are using a personal device to take class notes – must in fact be taking notes. Students found to be messaging others, checking email, shopping – or engaging in other NON-class activities will lose the privilege of being able to use their personal devices.
- **Students are NOT allowed to charge phones / devices in class!**

Food and Drink

As per the school handbook eating and chewing gum are not allowed. Student may have water / clear liquids – and that is all. Students with other food and drink will be asked to throw it away.

Students will come to class prepared and ready for engagement.

- This means that you are on time, in year seat, and ready to begin when the bell rings.
- It also means that you have all your class materials – text, binder, pencil, and any other resources the teacher has asked you to bring.

Bathroom breaks will be allowed, but not during the first 10 minutes of class.

- Student must sign in / out!
- Any student in the bathroom at the start of class will be counted tardy!

SUPPLIES for the class:

A 3 – RING BINDER – 2 inch / with paper / This will be for organizing your class notes, assignments, and projects.

- Dividers – the ones with the pockets would be good!
- You will need a divider for EACH UNIT, FRQ practice, OLD TESTS – you will need at least 11 dividers!

A 3-RING BINDER – 1.5 inch / for your Current Events Journal

- Dividers or POST-it notes to denote unit

Pen / Pencils – students will do work daily, take notes on reading and should always have something to write with!

Highlighters – more than one color (for peer edits, annotation, etc.)

Colored Pencils – ONE SET for map work.

- Pencils will work better than markers here – some FINE LINE markers might be good to have as well!

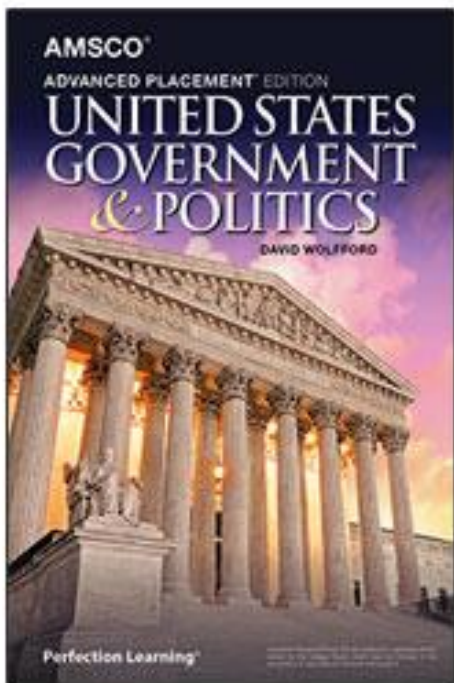
Honors GOVERNMENT and POLITICS TEXT Information: 2019-2020

LINK for Book Order: <https://www.perfectionlearning.com/social-studies/advanced-placement/united-states-government-politics-ap-exam.html>

- This link can be found on my webpage, and on Google Classroom!

We will use the Amsco – United States Government and Politics book –

- The book is available for \$18.95 – through the publishers website
- The book is available in a bundle – print + e-text for \$24.95 (this might be a nice option – so the kids don't have to lug the book back and forth to school.
- STUDENT'S NEED A PRINT COPY! For annotation, and highlighting.



This is what the text looks like!

Please make sure that you get the 2019 Version – Any older versions WILL NOT CORRESPOND to the revised curriculum and class materials that I give students.

Students may be able to buy a book from one of last years student's but be careful, many of these are NOT in very good shape!