



Dominican International School
台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	AP US Government & Politics
Grade Level	11-12
Teacher	Mr Andrew Hogenson
Email	ahogenson@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to learn about the institutions of the government of the United States. The organization and operation of the 3 branches of government, intentions and goals of the founders, federalism, the purpose of the bureaucracy civil rights and liberties, and process of running for office and winning an election are the key features. Students must be able to not only remember and understand these features, but also articulate their purpose, the desires and motivations of different political factions, and hypothesize on how political changes would affect the government.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, (SWBAT) Students will be able to:

- Connecting political concepts to real-life situations
- Explaining the impact and implications of certain U.S. Supreme Court decisions
- Analyzing data to find patterns and trends and draw conclusions
- Reading and analyzing text and visual sources
- Developing a claim or thesis and supporting it in an essay

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Wilson, James Q et al. *American Government: Institutions & Policies AP Edition*. Cengage. ISBN 979-8-214-09563-9
Cengage. *Fast Track to a 5: AP United States Government & Politics Examination*. ISBN: 978-1-337-78877-9

College Board also requires the following Foundational Documents and Landmark Supreme Court cases. The foundational documents are all easily found online. We will be researching the landmark Supreme Court cases on [oyez.org](https://www.oyez.org/).

Foundational Documents	Landmark Supreme Court Cases
Articles of Confederation	Marbury v Madison
Brutus 1	McCullough v Maryland
Declaration of Independence	Schenck v United States
Federalist 10	Brown v Board of Education (both cases)
Federalist 51	Baker v Carr
Federalist 70	Engel v Vitale
Federalist 78	Gideon v Wainwright
Letter From Birmingham Jail	Tinker v Des Moines
	New York Times v United States
	Wisconsin v Yoder
	Shaw v Reno
	United States v Lopez
	McDonald v Chicago
	Citizens United v Federal Election Commission

Google Classroom Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzczNjk1MjY1MTc1>

College Board Link: <https://myap.collegeboard.org/>



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College Board Join Code: WDWGLM

Cengage Virtual Textbook Code: <https://student.cengage.com/course-link/MTPPLQ55SL5L>

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

30% daily work assignments. Expect 2 assignments a week. The first will be taking notes on new chapters by preparing slides. The teacher will use these to make a slideshow for in class and students will take turns presenting the information learned. Students will also be expected to ask at least 3 questions of their peers. 10pt assignment. Students will also be given a debate topic once a week. They'll break into groups, spend one period preparing together and the second doing the debate. Afterwards we'll discuss our thoughts and build on the debate content. 20pts.

Be aware that this is a description of a typical week. Other activities may be given depending on school schedule, public holidays, etc. These will be posted on Google Classroom.

30% quizzes. Expect 1 quiz per week. These will alternate between multiple choice, short essay questions, and long essay questions. As above this is a typical week and any changes will be posted on Google Classroom.

30% quarter exam. The exam will be essay, and will be held in class time before the end of the quarter. The number of questions and points will increase as the school year progresses.

10% deportment. Deportment is based on class participation, behavior, and attitude.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words of sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) 4 days of class 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules• Textbook introduction• Virtual classroom setup Chapter 1: The Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Constitution Convention• The Founding Fathers• Principles and Purposes Foundational Documents: The Declaration of Independence



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Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	Chapter 2: Federalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of Federalism • Federalism in Practice • Federalism Financially • Devolution Foundational Document: The Articles of Confederation Supreme Court Case: US v Lopez
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Chapter 3: Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of Congress • Getting Elected to Congress • Views and Political Outlooks of Congressmen Foundational Document: Federalist 10 Foundational Document: Brutus 1
Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	Chapter 3: Congress (cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees • How a bill becomes a law • Methods of Voting Foundational Document: Federalist 51 Supreme Court Case: McCulloch v Maryland
Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	Chapter 4: The Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution of the Office • Powers of the president • Popularity and blame Foundational Document: Federalist 70
Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	Chapter 4: The Presidency (cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The White House office • The Cabinet, the Vice President, and other Executive Leaders • Presidential Agencies • Impeachment
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26-Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	Chapter 5: The Bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and Culture • Coordination with the Executive Branch • Oversight • Political Goals vs Expertise
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Exam: Quarter 1
Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
	6-Moon Festival (no classes)
	7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)



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<p>Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17)</p> <p>13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam</p>	<p>Chapter 6: The Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth of the Supreme Court • Selection of judges • Jurisdiction and Standing <p>Foundational Document: Federalist 78 Supreme Court Case: Marbury v Madison</p>
<p>Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24)</p> <p>20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)</p>	<p>Chapter 6: The Judiciary (cont)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of justices (originalism, judicial activism, etc) • Interaction with other branches of government • Public opinion and the courts <p>Supreme Court Case: Baker v Carr</p>
<p>Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31)</p> <p>29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Civil Liberties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Amendments for Civil Liberties • Federalism and Civil Liberties <p>Supreme Court Case: Engel v Vitale Supreme Court Case: Wisconsin v Yoder</p>
<p>Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7)</p> <p>3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Civil Liberties (cont)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due Process • Civil liberties as applied to the police • Civil liberties and terrorism <p>Supreme Court Case: Tinker v Des Moines Supreme Court Case: Schenck v United States</p>
<p>Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14)</p> <p>14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Civil Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil rights and race • Civil rights and women • Civil rights and gay rights <p>Foundational Document: Letter From Birmingham Jail Supreme Court Case: Brown v Board of Education</p>
<p>Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21)</p> <p>17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Civil Rights (cont)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmative Action • Equality of opportunity vs equality of outcome • Desegregation vs integration <p>Supreme Court Case: Shaw v Reno</p>
<p>Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28)</p> <p>24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam</p>	<p>Exam: Quarter 2</p>
<p>Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)</p>	
<p>Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5)</p> <p>1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day</p>	<p>Chapter 9: American Political Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political systems • Economic motivations • Brand loyalty • Perceptions of political leaders <p>Supreme Court Case: Gideon v Wainwright</p>



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Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Quarter 2 Exam Week (no class)
December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)	
December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break	

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Chapter 10: Public Opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring public opinion Problems measuring public opinion Appealing to demographics
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	Chapter 11: Political Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter turnout Volunteerism Federalism and political participation
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	Chapter 12: Political Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party systems through history Becoming a candidate Supporting political candidates National vs State vs Local Parties 3rd parties
Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	Chapter 13: Elections and Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primaries Campaigning Incumbency vs new candidates Supreme Court Case: New York Times vs United States
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUAO Recollection for MS	Chapter 13: Elections and Campaigns (cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerrymandering Campaign Finance and SuperPACS Supreme Court Case: Citizen's United vs Federal Election Commission
Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	Chapter 14: Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose of Interest Groups The Iron Triangle Lobbying Supreme Court Case: McDonald v Chicago
February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	Chapter 15: The Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals of the Media Politicians using the Media Bias Regulations vs Freedom of the Press
February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)	



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Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	Chapter 16: Domestic Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Welfare Business Regulation Environmental Policy
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Exam: Quarter 3

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	Chapter 17: Economic Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Politicians favored forms of economics The Federal Reserve Activity: Foundational Document Study Guide
March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	Chapter 18: Foreign and Military Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential vs Congressional power internationally Political opinions on foreign policy Activity: Foundational Document Study Guide (cont)
March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break	
Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	Activity: Supreme Court Cases Study Guide
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	Activity: Supreme Court Cases Study Guide (cont)
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	AP Mock Exams Q4 Exam Date: (will be added to Google Classroom when Mr Joe completes AP Mock schedule)
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	Final Review Week
May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday	



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<p>Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8)</p> <p>4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams</p>	<p>AP United States Government & Politics Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday, May 5th, 12pm
<p>Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15)</p> <p>13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days</p>	<p>Celebration, Congratulations, Movie</p>
<p><i>May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students)</i> <i>Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes</i></p>	
<p>Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22)</p> <p>18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony</p>	<p>Preparation for Graduation</p>
<p>Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29)</p> <p>25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Graduation</p>