

A.P. Government Course Outline

Klein Oak High School
Fall Semester 2005

- I. Constitutional Underpinnings - 5-15%
 - A. historical environment
 - B. separation of powers
 - C. federalism
 - D. theories of democracy

- II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors - 10-20%
 - A. beliefs about government & leaders
 - B. how people learn about politics
 - C. nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion
 - D. type of participation
 - E. explanation of differences

- III. Parties, Interest Groups & Mass Media - 10-20%
 - A. parties & elections
 - 1. functions
 - 2. organization
 - 3. development
 - 4. effects on process
 - 5. electoral laws & systems
 - B. interest groups
 - 1. range of interests represented
 - 2. activities
 - 3. effects on political process
 - 4. PACs
 - a. characteristics
 - b. roles
 - C. mass media
 - 1. functions & structures
 - 2. impacts on politics

Unit #1

2.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 1-3
Federalist #10

Unit #2

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 4-5

Unit #3

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 6-7

Unit #4

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapter 8

Unit #5

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 9-10

IV. Institutions: Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy, Courts - 35-45%

- A. Congress
- B. Presidency
 - 1. formal powers
 - 2. informal powers
- C. Bureaucracy
- D. Courts
- E. relationships
- F. varying balances of power
- G. linkages between institutions
- H. linkages
 - 1. public opinion & voters
 - 2. interest groups
 - 3. political parties
 - 4. media
 - 5. sub national governments

V. Civil Rights/Liberties - 5-15%

- A. development by judicial interpretation
- B. substantive rights and liberties
- C. impact of 14th Amendment

VI. Public Policy - 5-15%

- A. in federal system
- B. formation of policy agendas
- C. roles of institutions
- D. role of bureaucracy
- E. role of courts
- F. linkages
 - 1. political institutions & federalism
 - 2. political parties
 - 3. interest groups
 - 4. public opinion
 - 5. elections
 - 6. policy networks

Unit #6

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapter 11

Unit #7

2.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 12-13

Unit #8

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapter 14

Unit #9

2 weeks
Wilson chapters 18-19

Unit #10

1.5 weeks
Wilson chapters 15-17, 20, 21