



American Government

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CORRELATED TO THE

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE DESCRIPTION
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

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I. Constitutional underpinnings of democracy in the United States

A. Federalism

The history of federalism is discussed on pages 28, 30 and the framing of the Constitution is discussed on pages 29-38. Chapter 3 (pp. 50-83) describes what federalism means to people, what its impact is upon states' rights, and its implications with respect to revenue sharing and re-distribution of wealth. The Constitution is presented in full on pages A4-A20 and the Federalist Papers 10, 51 are presented on pages A21-A29.

B. Separation of powers

The separation of powers is discussed on pages 32-34, with a concise description of the institutions and their authority on page 34. On pages 44-48, methods of reducing the separation of powers are discussed, including whether such reduction might be of merit to the electorate.

C. Considerations that influenced the formulation and adoption of the Constitution

The considerations of the ratifying states in formulating and adopting the Constitution are described throughout Chapter 2, on pages 19-49. The proceedings of the Constitutional Convention are described, along with influences upon the framers.

II. Political beliefs and behaviors of individuals

A. Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders

Chapter 11 includes a discussion of the demographics of Congress and the perceptions of those who elected its members (pp. 307-314). In addition, the discussion of "The Office of the President" (pp. 376-384) and "Presidential Character" (pp. 384-395) describes how citizens view the president.

B. Processes by which citizens learn about politics

Chapter 4, American Political Culture (pp. 85-107), describes the political system and the influences of various institutions (such as religion and the economy) have on citizens' perceptions of the political process.

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C. The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion

Chapter 5, Public Opinion (pp. 110-141), describes some current issues of public interest. Education, gender, religion, heritage, and wealth are all examined in relation to public opinion.

D. The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life

Chapter 6, Political Participation (pp. 143-161), examines voting trends in the United States, voter registration, suffrage, and the causes of increases and decreases in voter participation.

E. Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

Chapter 7, Political Parties (pp. 163-193), Chapter 9, Interest Groups (pp. 234-265), and Chapter 10, The Media (pp. 266-296), all describe many of the factors that affect the development of individual political beliefs.

III. Political parties and interest groups: mechanisms that facilitate the communication of interests and preferences by like-minded citizens

A. Political parties and elections (including their functions, organization, historical development, and effects on the political process)

Chapter 7, Political Parties (pp. 163-193), describes the history of, early roles of, and current structure and influence of political parties at the state, local, and national levels.

B. Interest groups (including PACS)

1. *The range of interests that are or are not represented*
Chapter 9, Interest Groups (pp. 234-265), discusses range of interests that are or are not represented.

2. *The activities of interest groups*

Pages 252-262 of Chapter 9 specifically address the activities of interest groups, including PACs: what they attempt to do, how they collect funds, and how they use those funds.

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3. *The effects of interest groups on the political process*

The student gains a clear understanding of the power of interest groups in a special feature on the National Rifle Association (p. 256). The influence of other interest groups is also described on pages 252-262.

IV. The Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts: institutions and policy processes

A. The major formal and informal institutional arrangements of powers

This topic is discussed throughout Part Three of the text, Institutions of Government. It includes: Chapter 11, Congress (pp. 298-361); Chapter 12, The Presidency (pp. 362-402); Chapter 13, The Bureaucracy (pp. 408-437); and Chapter 14, The Judiciary (pp. 438-470).

B. Relationships among these four institutions

The relationships among these institutions are examined in Chapter 15, The Policy-Making Process (pp. 472-497), and by specific examples throughout Part Four of the text, The Politics of Public Policy (pp. 471-665). Topics in these chapters discuss how the bureaucracy, Congress, the President, and the courts interact to produce public policy regarding the economy, social welfare, civil liberties, civil rights, foreign affairs, the military, and the environment.

C. Links between these institutions and political parties, interest groups, the media, sub-national governments, and public opinion

The links between the agents who form public policy are addressed throughout Part Three, Institutions of Government (pp. 277-470), and Part Four (The Politics of Public Policy 471-665). The influence of interest groups on the government is described in Chapter 9 (pp. 234-265). The media's influence on policy is examined in Chapter 10 (pp. 279-283). Rules which govern the media are specifically addressed on pages 265-267.

D. Policy processes and outputs

Chapters 15, 16, and 17 (pp. 472-543) provide an in-depth description of how public policy is formed, how decisions are made, and how federalism and interest-groups influence public policy.

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E. Policy making in a federal system

Chapter 15, The Policy-Making Process (pages 473-497), describes the mechanics of how policy is made in a federal system.

V. Civil liberties and civil rights

The development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation, including, for example:

First Amendment freedoms

An in-depth discussion of civil liberties and civil rights appears in Chapters 18 (pp. 544-569) and 19 (pp. 570-601). Pages 546-562 examine the Bill of Rights and how it is interpreted and applied.

The rights of the accused

The establishment of rights for the accused is described on pages 562-568.

Minority-group and women's rights

The establishment of rights for women and minority groups is addressed on pages 571-594.