

Welcome to AP United States Government and Politics! APGOPO is full-year course that aims to encourage students to be knowledgeable and inquiring, as well as principled and open-minded, all of which are characteristics of the IB Learner Profile.

Students will cultivate an understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as we explore topics like the foundations of American democracy, interactions among branches of government, civil liberties and civil rights, political ideologies and beliefs, and political participation in a representative democracy.

You will study the key concepts and institutions of the political system and culture of the United States. You will read, analyze, and discuss the U.S. Constitution and other required documents, landmark Supreme Court cases, as well as complete a research or applied civics project.

In May 2025 you will take the AP United States Government and Politics Exam, one of many opportunities you will have over the next four years to earn college credit during high school through AP/IB courses.

David Bradberry

- M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction – Augusta State University
- B.A. in History – Augusta College
- Georgia T-5 certification
- 30 years teaching experience

Required Materials:

- a large, sturdy 1-2" binder exclusively for this class
- some notebook paper
- all papers should be completed in **blue or black** ink – NO pencil
- Binder dividers (recommended)
- Bring your **laptop** to class daily

Students (Required) and Parents

Sign up for class reminders

Text @arcapgov to 81010

Texts:

- Wolford, David. United States Government and Politics: Advanced Placement Edition. Perfection Learning, Des Moines, Iowa, 2021.
- Additional primary source and article readings outside and in class as provided or assigned.

Organization: Students are responsible for keeping up with reading assignments and should always be at least one chapter ahead of lectures. Students are also responsible for being prepared for all quizzes and tests. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, coverage of discussion questions, review, and test preparation. Students are provided numerous handouts including charts, maps, graphs, information sheets, and others, along with articles and collected materials.

Technology: Laptops and laptops only may at times, designated by the teacher, be used for instructional purposes. Otherwise, students are not allowed to have these devices out on their desks or in their hands or being used in any manner during class without prior permission. Students also may not video or audio record any of their classmates or me without prior permission. The new ARC Cell Phone policy will be enforced – see below. I dream of ways to destroy your cell phone. I loathe it. Headphones are not to be in your ears during class, even if nothing is playing. **Is this clear?**

Attendance: Aim for perfect attendance. Missing class can create problems. Schedule doctor and dentist appointments around this class. Get notes and assignments from a classmate. *If you check out, your assignments are due before you leave school. **All work turned in after the due date will receive a 20% reduction in grade for each day late **unless** the absence is excused. ***If you are absent on the day of a test, you must take a makeup test after school within 2 days of your return to school **if** the absence is excused. ****The ARC tardy policy will enforced.

Grading: Your grade will be based on the percentages outlined by the Richmond County Board of Education. Grades will be averaged combined into two categories.

- Major Grades (40%) – including tests, vocabulary and other quizzes, written assessments, article analysis, projects
- Minor Grades (60%) – including document readings and analysis, homework/classwork assignments, writing practice

- Additional in-class or out-of-class investigations and papers will be required. It will be communicated in advance which category these may be assigned.
- Additional “knowledge demonstration opportunities” may be used if it is apparent that students need additional incentive to responsibly keep up in class or with class assignments. *Hint – if I ask you to read it or do it as preparation for class the next day, do it.*

Reassessment

- Students may request to be reassessed on Major Tests.
- Students must follow the ARC Reassessment Policy by presenting a written reassessment request/plan to their teacher and parents. See my webpage. Any reassessment on Major Grades must be done after school and within seven days of the original assessment, and at the discretion of and convenience of the teacher.

Class Participation and Extra Credit are considered for students who are “on the fence” between letter grades. It is the responsibility of the student to request and complete any makeup work or extra credit assignments.

Participation includes:

- Raising your hand to ask or to respond to a question
- Responding to classroom discussions in a courteous, intelligent respectful way
- Making an effort to contribute to class through active listening, dialogue, and note taking
- Being an attentive/active listener

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to do their own work: free of plagiarism, copying, cheating, or any other form of dishonesty. Students failing to maintain integrity will not receive a grade on the related assignments/tests and face progressive discipline. See the next section.

ARC Academic Honesty Policy: We take academic honesty very seriously in the IB Programme at ARC. We will adhere to ARC’s IB Academic Honesty policy which can be found on the ARC IB website. The policy includes Level 1 (accidental or passive malpractice) and Level 2 (intentional or active malpractice) offenses. Level 1 offenses can often be corrected in class by a student/teacher conversation. Repeated Level 1 offenses will lead to a Level 2 offense. Level 2 offenses result in a meeting of all teachers, parents, student, IB Coordinator, and IB Head of School and result in 90 days of academic probation. A second offense results in a meeting with all teachers, parents, student, IB Coordinator, IB Head of School and principal and can result in dismissal from the IB Programme.

Richmond County NEW CELLPHONE/ELECTRONIC Policy 2024-2025

Cellular phones, smart phones, smart watches, any type of headphones, earbuds, and other devices or accessories used to electronically communicate. The use of cell phones, electronic communication devices and/or accessories is prohibited for all students at all times during the instructional day, which is defined as the time the student arrives on campus until the end of the school day and/or the time the student leaves campus. The instructional day includes, but is not limited to, class periods, class changes, study halls, and any other structured or nonstructured instructional activity that occurs during the normal school day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the common areas, hallways, restrooms, locker rooms or any other areas during the instructional day.

Food/Beverages: There will be NO food allowed in the classroom. Bottles of water and ONLY water are okay as long as they have secured tops. No, that’s not water in your McDonald’s cup and the top is not remotely what I call secure. **Is this clear?**

Daily Classroom Rules:

*come to class on time *come to class prepared with the necessary materials *remain in your assigned seat unless otherwise instructed *raise your hand to speak *do not bring food or drinks into the classroom *put away and turn off all tech

Consequences of Rules Violations:

*verbal warning *teacher conference with student *contact parent *teacher detention after second parental contact
*refer problem to administration **serious infractions and persistent behavior problems will result in immediate referral to the administration

LATE WORK POLICY

1. Assignments will be accepted for 75% credit FIVE days after the due date with a 5% reduction for each day late. After 11:59 of the FIFTH day, the assignment will close, and no more submissions will be accepted. (For example, a Canvas assignment due January 7th would be open until 11:59 on January 12th – weekends will not count, school days only.)
2. This applies both to assignments submitted on Canvas or due in class on paper (due on the FIFTH day at the end of the school day.)
3. Any assignments not submitted during that time will be entered into the gradebook as an “M” for missing.
4. Exceptions to this new policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Disclaimer: *The teacher reserves the sole and complete right to modify this syllabus at any time and in any way he sees fit. Minor syllabus modifications often happen during the school year. However, any changes will be made for the good of the class, to benefit all students, and announced well in advance.*

To Parents: Please read this syllabus carefully. If you have any concerns, I may be contacted through Canvas email, school email - bradbda@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us, or at 706.231.7884.

Thank you,

David Bradberry

AP Government**Parents –**

Please sign and return the entire syllabus to Mr. Bradberry. It will be returned to you.

I have read and understand the requirements for my child in Mr. Bradberry’s AP Government class. I also give my child permission to watch films, videos, and documentaries shown in this class. They are shown to enrich instruction and to engage students, not to promote a particular ideology or agenda.

Parent Signature _____

Student’s Name _____