

**AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS:
UNITED STATES AND COMPARATIVE**
Mr. Lem Wheelles—A.J. Dimond High School

Course Overview

This year-long course will introduce students to the discipline of political science through the study of the political systems of seven nation-states: the United States, Great Britain, Russia, China, Nigeria, Mexico, and Iran. Students will learn to identify, evaluate, and compare various political structures and institutions using the structure-functional approach.

United States Government and Politics Topics

- I. Constitutional Underpinnings of the US Government
- II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors
- III. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media
- IV. Institutions of Nation Government
- V. Public Policy
- VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Comparative Government and Politics Topics

- I. Introduction to Comparative Politics
- II. Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
- III. Citizens, Society, and the State
- IV. Political Institutions
- V. Public Policy
- VI. Political and Economic Change

Course Credit

This course will be taught at the level of an introductory college course in political science. Successful completion of both semesters of this course will fulfill the United States Government graduation requirement and the one-semester social studies elective graduation requirement. Students are expected to take both the AP United States Government and Politics and the AP Comparative Government and Politics exams; students can earn college credit based on their exam scores. **Note:** As the content focused on United States government will be incorporated throughout the entire yearlong course, both semesters must be completed to fulfill the government graduation requirement.

Workload

Students will complete a variety of rigorous assignments, discussions, and examinations designed to teach the topics listed above and prepare the students for both AP Government examinations in the spring. Assignments will include readings from textbooks, periodicals and primary source documents; descriptive and analytical essays; in-class discussions and debates; and one major research project each semester. Exams will cover content from readings, class lectures, class discussions, and assignments and will be formatted after the AP Government examinations. Students should expect 3-4 hours of homework per week.