



Bloomington High School is a diverse community that supports lifelong learners who are responsible and productive citizens in our global society. Together we will provide a safe environment that guides students to reach their full potential in pursuit of academic and personal fulfillment.

**Course Title:** AP American Government and Politics(Semester; ½ credit)

**Course Description:** This course will generally parallel the basic concepts covered in American Government. These include the constitutional theories forming the basis of the Credited States government; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and the mass media; the Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and Federal courts; public policy; and civil rights and civil liberties. In addition, this course will provide the student with an analytical perspective on government and politics that will involve printed material, the internet, and state and local government resources. This course will follow the College Board Advanced Placement syllabus requiring students to complete a variety of reading and writing assignments. Students will be required to pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution exams in order to receive credit for the class. Students are strongly encouraged to take the national AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May. Please see the section at the beginning of this guide concerning AP exams. This course carries the honors/advanced G.P.A. weighting.

**Units of Study:**

Foundations of American Democracy  
Interaction Among Branches of Government  
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights  
Political Ideology and Beliefs  
Political Participation  
Final Exam (Practice AP Exam)  
AP Exam  
U.S. Constitution Exam  
State and Local Government  
Illinois Constitution Exam

**Texts and Required Readings:**

O’Conner, Karen O. and Larry J. Sabato. *American Government: Continuity and Change*. 2004 Edition. New York: Pearson Education, Inc. 2004.

**BHS Grading Scale and Policy:**

The semester final grade is obtained from running semester grade (80%) and the semester final exam grade (20%). This means that you will have already earned 80% of your final grade by the time you reach semester exams. Semester exams are required. [BHS Handbook, pg. 17](#)

**90-100% = A**

**80-89% = B**

**70-79% = C**

**60-69% = D**

**Below 60% = F**

**BHS Makeup Work Policy:**

All students are expected to do makeup work in a timely fashion. It is the student's responsibility to obtain assignments prior to a pre-arranged absence, and immediately upon return for all other absences. General rule: one day absence affords one day to complete formative makeup work. For summative, students should expect to complete on the day of return. Failure to complete makeup work by the teacher deadline will result in a zero/missing in Gradebook. [BHS Handbook, pg. 37](#).

**Discussing Controversial Issues in the Classroom:**

The guidelines set forth by the District 87 Board Policy 6.070 will be used handling controversial issues in the classroom. Please contact your teacher if you have any questions.