

# Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

## BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Program Name	WYCA	Content Area	Social Studies
Course ID	CASS86328	Grade Level	9, 10, 11, 12
Course Name	AP United States Government and Politics	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04157E0.5011	Curriculum Type	Connections Academy

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will survey the complex subjects of the United States government and politics. The student will analyze, in some detail, the processes and institutions (both formal and informal) through which the political system functions and policy decisions are made. This analysis will include the constitutional structure of government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, the extra constitutional influences on those institutions, public policy, and individual rights and liberties.

### WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	BENCHMARK
SS12.1.1	Analyze unique freedoms, rights, and responsibilities of living in a democratic society and explain their interrelationships.
SS12.1.2	Explain and/or demonstrate how to participate in the political process and form personal opinions.
SS12.1.3	Analyze the historical development of the United States Constitution and treaties and how it has shaped the United States and Wyoming Government (tribal, local, state, federal).
SS12.1.6	Compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, and institutions) with that of the United States.
SS12.2.1	Analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, and cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs and common good) and contribute to identity (e.g., group, national, and global), situations, and events.
SS12.3.4	Explain how financial and government institutions make economic decisions (e.g., banking, investment, credit, regulation, and debt).
SS12.4.1	Describe patterns of change (cause and effect) and evaluate how past events impacted future events and the modern world.
SS12.4.3	Given a significant current event, critique the actions of the people or groups involved; hypothesize how this event would have played out in another country.
SS12.4.4	Describe the historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious, social, cultural, and workplace) and their impact on significant historical events.
SS12.4.5	Using primary and secondary sources, apply historical research methods to interpret and evaluate important historical events from multiple perspectives.
SS12.6.1	Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.
SS12.6.2	Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text supports the author's claims.
SS12.6.4	Evaluate and integrate accurate, sufficient, and relevant information from primary and secondary sources to support writing

### SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Unit 1: Constitutional Foundations</b>                      The study of American politics involves not only the study of the U.S. Constitution, but also the many factors that influenced its development and implementation. When the Constitution was written, the framers could not possibly foresee the changes in the country, its people and the available technology. In this unit we will evaluate sources of information, begin looking at the beliefs of the American population and then consider the making of the U.S. Constitution.</p>	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.3, SS12.1.6, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.4.5, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Evaluate the theories and styles of democratic government.</li> <li>•Describe sources of American political culture and compare America’s political culture to that of other democracies.</li> <li>•Analyze the experiences, philosophies and ideologies that influenced the formulation and adoption of the •American Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.</li> <li>•Evaluate the major principles of American democracy developed in the Constitution and explain their justification.</li> <li>•Analyze the implications of federalism as a foundation of American government.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unit 2: Civil Liberties and Rights</b> Americans have been protesting and asking for "redress of grievances" since before the revolutionary war. They considered it their right as Englishmen to demand change as do Americans today. Throughout our history people have recognized injustice and worked to change it through peaceful means. The middle of the twentieth century saw our liberty to petition government come together again, this time with the demand for civil rights for all. In this unit, we will examine our liberties and our civil rights and the policies and court cases designed to protect them both.</p>	<p>SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.1.3, SS12.1.6, SS12.4.1, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.4.5, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.4,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Analyze the effect of the 14th amendment and incorporation doctrine on American civil liberties in the states.</li> <li>•Analyze the development of first amendment rights and the rights of the accused as they evolved through judicial interpretation.</li> <li>•Analyze the development of privacy rights as they evolved through judicial interpretation and legislative action.</li> <li>•Trace the expansion of voting rights as they evolved through Constitution amendments and legislative and judicial action.</li> <li>•Analyze the evolution of equality through judicial and legislative action.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 3: People and Politics</b> Our government is based on the belief that the ultimate power in our system rests with "We the People." In this unit you will study how the people are linked to the institutions of government and how they exercise their political power.</p>	<p>SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.2.1, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.4.5,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Identify and evaluate the ways in which citizens participate in political life.</li> <li>•Explain the functions and structures of the media in the political system.</li> <li>•Describe the functions and organization of political parties.</li> <li>•Explain current election process and voter participation.</li> <li>•Analyze the causes and effects of the growth of interest groups and PACs in the American political system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 4: The Policymakers</b> Who takes action in response to a problem in our country? Our policymakers, Congress, the president, the federal bureaucracy, and the federal courts, all respond to the issues of "We the People." In our system of government there are many voices to be heard and no one policymaker can act alone. The challenge for policymakers is to work together to make the best decisions for the country's health and prosperity. In this unit you will examine how the three branches of American government influence and create public policy.</p>	<p>SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.1.3, SS12.1.6, SS12.4.1, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.4.5, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.4,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Explain the Constitutional framework within which Congress operates.</li> <li>•Explain the functions of members of Congress (including representation, lawmaking, oversight, checks and balances)</li> <li>•Explain the Constitutional framework within which the president operates</li> <li>•Describe the nature and functions of the federal bureaucracy.</li> <li>•Explain the Constitutional framework for the Federal Courts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 5: Public Policy</b> When there is a problem in our country, many Americans expect the government to "do something" especially when the problem is widespread. At the same time, many Americans distrust government and want to limit its power. This contradictory political culture leads to a narrow range of options for policymakers. In this unit we will look at how policy is created, implemented, evaluated, and then revised or terminated.</p>	<p>SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.2.1, SS12.3.4, SS12.4.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.4.5,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Describe the budget process.</li> <li>•Explain how foreign and defense policy are different from domestic policy</li> <li>•Describe the major players in foreign policy developments.</li> <li>•Select a significant economic, social, and foreign policy and trace its development, identifying the influences on its passage and evaluating its success or failure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unit 6: AP U.S. Government Exam</b> This section is to help prepare you for the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam and the final exam for this course. You should not take it lightly as it will give you tools not only to do well on the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam, but to do well on your final exam for this course.</p>		<p>In this section, you will quickly review these topics that you learned about in AP U.S. Government and Politics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Constitutional Basis of U.S. Government</li> <li>•Federalism</li> <li>•Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</li> <li>•Linkage Institutions</li> <li>•Voting</li> <li>•Congress, the Presidency, the Federal Bureaucracy, and the Courts</li> </ul>