

**United States Government and Politics
Advanced Placement and Dual Credit
Kingwood High School
Spring 2019**

Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor: Bryan J Henry, M.Ed., M.A.

Email: Bryan.Henry@humbleisd.net

Course website/content: www.bryanjhenry.com

Course Expectations and Format: Advanced Placement and Dual Credit U.S. Government 2305 is designed to give students a general overview of the U. S. system of government at the national level. This course will focus upon the U.S. Constitution, democratic theory, federalism, political culture, political socialization, public opinion, political participation, electoral behavior, political parties, interest groups, and the role of the media in U.S. politics. In short, we will study the institutional and legal framework supporting our current system and the many links between Americans and their government. This course emphasizes the development of intellectual, academic, social, and civic skills. The specific course expectations include: 1) To nurture the student's ability to read critically, think rationally, and communicate effectively, 2) To provide problem-solving opportunities that will challenge students to think analytically, while encouraging intellectual risk-taking, 3) To encourage student responsibility for learning, 4) To foster civic participation, 5) To develop a commitment to civil dialogue and willingness to express ideas and consider opposing viewpoints.

Lone Star College Academic Freedom Statement: On college campuses, the free exchange of ideas is encouraged and expected. Censorship of ideas or opinions runs counter to the openness of the learning environment and inhibits the development of critical thinking skills. It is important to understand that you will be exposed to, and will be expected to participate in, an open exchange of ideas, discussions, debates, and even class assignments concerning subject matter that is challenging, mature and/or representative of differing worldviews.

Lone Star College Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Primary Text:

We the People. Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert. Eleventh Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2016.
ISBN-13: 978-0393283624. (available at student request)

Secondary Texts (required):

This class includes two required secondary books. Students are responsible for acquiring a digital or hard-copy of both texts. You may purchase the texts new or used, or rent them.

Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America. Berman, Ari. Picador, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-250-09472-8.

Who's Counting: How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk. Fund, John and Hans von Spakovsky. Encounter Books, 2012. ISBN: 978-159403618-7.

Cell Phones/Tablets: All cell phones should be in your backpacks or pockets during class. All cell phones must be silenced during class (your phone should not disrupt class by ringing or vibrating). You may NOT text during class. You must receive permission in order to use a tablet for note-taking purposes.

Syllabus/Website: Students are expected to consult the syllabus and website regularly in order to be prepared for class and know when assignments are due. The class website is www.bryanjhenry.com, which can also be accessed through Mr. Henry's teacher page on the KHS website.

Course Schedule

First Grading Period

Week 1: January 8-11 (*We the People* Chapter 1)

T	1/8	Class: Course Syllabus and Expectations HW: Read "In Defense of Intellectual Life" (website)
W	1/9	Class: Assemblies
Th	1/10 7:25	Class: Current Events and Research Project HW: Read "Power Basics" (website)
F	1/11	Class: Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics HW: Read "Introduction to Political Philosophy and Ideologies" (website)

Week 2: January 14-18 (*We the People* Chapters 6, 2)

M	1/14	Class: Political Philosophy and Ideologies
T	1/15	Class: Enlightenment
WTh	1/16-17	Class: Analysis of <i>Declaration of Independence</i>
F	1/18	Class: Current Event #1 Due ; Articles of Confederation

Week 3: January 21-25 (*We the People* Chapter 2)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> "Prologue" and Chapter 1 pp. 3-38
M	1/21	No School
T	1/22	Class: Gordon Wood "Republicanism" analysis
W	1/23	Class: <i>Selma</i> Film Analysis
Th	1/24 7:25	Class: <i>Selma</i> Film Analysis
F	1/25 PR	Class: <i>Selma</i> Film Analysis

Week 4: January 28 – February 1 (*We the People* Chapters 2, 3)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 2 pp. 39-64
M	1/28	Class: 1780s: State Constitutions
T	1/29	Class: Test #1
W/Th	1/30-31	Class: Constitutional Convention HW: Read U.S. Constitution (website)
F	2/1	Class: Current Event #2 Due ; U.S. Constitution

Week 5: February 4-8 (*We the People* Chapter 3)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 3 pp. 65-99
M	2/4	Class: U.S. Constitution Quiz ; Ratification Debates (<i>Brutus</i> No. 1)
T	2/5	Class: Ratification Debates (<i>Federalist</i> No. 10 and No. 51)
W/Th	2/6-7	Class: New York Ratification Convention; Federalism
F	2/8	Class: Federalism

Week 6: February 11-15 (*We the People* Chapter 12)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 4 pp. 100-120
M	2/11	Class: Congress
T	2/12	Class: Congress
W/Th	2/13-14	Class: Mock Congress
F	2/15	Class: Current Event #3 Due ; Mock Congress

Week 7: February 18-22 (*We the People* Chapter 13)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 5 pp. 121-158
M	2/18	No School
T	2/19	Class: Test #2
W	2/20	Class: Presidency
Th	2/21 7:25	Class: Presidency
F	2/22 PR	Class: Current Event #4 Due ; Presidency

Week 8: February 25 – March 1 (*We the People* Chapters 13, 14)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 8 pp. 207-244
M	2/25	Class: Presidency and Foreign Policy
T	2/26	Class: Presidency and Environmental Policy
W/Th	2/27-28	Class: Test #3 ; Federal Bureaucracy
F	3/1	Class: Federal Bureaucracy

Week 9: March 4-8 (*We the People* Chapter 15)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapters 9-10 pp. 245-314
M	3/4	Class: Judicial Branch
T	3/5	Class: Judicial Branch
W/Th	3/6-7	Class: Essay Workshop: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Review
F	3/8	Class: Essay Workshop: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Review

Spring Break: March 11-15

Second Grading Period

Week 10: March 18-22 (*We the People* Chapter 4)

		Reading: <i>Who's Counting</i> Chapters 1-2 pp. 1-44
M	3/18	Class: Civil Liberties
T	3/19	Class: Civil Liberties
W/Th	3/20-21	Class: Civil Liberties
F	3/22 PR	Class: Current Event #1 Due ; Civil Liberties

Week 11: March 25-29 (*We the People* Chapters 4, 5)

		Reading: <i>Who's Counting</i> Chapter 3 pp. 45-74, Chapter 5 pp. 85-100
M	3/25	Class: Civil Rights
T	3/26	Class: Civil Rights
W/Th	3/27-28	Class: Test #1
F	3/29	Class: Civil Rights (“Letter from a Birmingham Jail”)

Week 12: April 1-5 (*We the People* Chapter 10)

		Reading: <i>Who's Counting</i> Chapter 6-7 pp. 101-156
M	4/1	Class: Election Process
T	4/2	Class: Election Process
W/Th	4/3-4	Class: Electoral College
F	4/5	Class: Current Event #2 Due ; Electoral College

Week 13: April 8-12 (*We the People* Chapters 8, 9)

		Reading: <i>Who's Counting</i> Chapter 9 pp. 167-185, Chapter 13 pp. 227-253
M	4/8	Class: Political Socialization
T	4/9	Class: Political Parties
W	4/10	Class: Political Participation
Th	4/11 7:25	Class: Essay Workshop: <i>Who's Counting</i> Review
F	4/12	Senior Picnic
S	4/13	Senior Prom

Week 14: April 15-19 (*We the People* Chapter 16)

M	4/15	Public Opinion and Mass Media
T	4/16	Class: Economic Policy
W/Th	4/17-18	Class: Economic Policy
F	4/19	No School

Week 15: April 22-26 (*We the People* Chapter 17)

M	4/22	No School
T	4/23	Class: Social Policy
W/Th	4/24-25	Class: Social Policy
F	4/26	Class: Social Policy

Week 16: April 29 – May 3

M	4/29	Class: Test #2: Voting Rights Essay Due
T	4/30	Class: Review
W/Th	5/1-2	Class: Test #3: Cumulative Exam
F	5/3	Class: Review

Week 17: May 6-10

M	5/6	AP U.S. Government Exam
T	5/7	AP Exams
W	5/8	AP European History Exam
Th	5/9 7:25	AP Exams
F	5/10	AP Exams

Week 18: May 13-17

M	5/13	AP Exams
T	5/14	AP Exams
W/Th	5/15-16	AP Exams
F	5/17	AP Exams

Week 19: May 20-24

M	5/20	Review
T	5/21	Review
W	5/22	Class: Final Exams
Th	5/23	Class: Final Exams
F	5/24	Class: Final Exams

S	5/25	Graduation Ceremony
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