

# AP Government

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The AP course in US/VA Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics. Students should become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. This course allows Center students to work together and discuss how leaders at the various levels of government display leadership skills.

## CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Students will develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weakness of the American political system, as well as their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Students are responsible for keeping up with events in the news. Current events provide concrete connections for each lesson. Throughout the year, the course text will be supplemented by relevant articles. Generally, each class will begin with a discussion of current events and the assigned readings.

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Critical Thinking, Listening, Oral Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Research, Technology, Writing

## APPLICATIONS/CONNECTIONS

Mastery of these Standards/Indicators will allow the student to

- achieve success on the Advanced Placement Test;
- use research skills to gather data on a variety of topics both in and out of school;
- analyze and comprehend material read for pleasure, academics, employment, or general information;
- produce writing that is clear, concise, and easily understood by a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes;
- communicate effectively and persuasively in oral speech.

## Mr. Alex Addison

As James Madison recognized, government stirs the passion of the people. Part of government's role, according to Madison, is to create safeguards to temper peoples' passions. As a government teacher, it is easy to understand what Madison meant. Government is such a fascinating subject because it covers so many issues that elicit a passionate response from the citizenry. In a respectful environment, there are endless topics to discuss, debate, and analyze in a government classroom. Government is one of the most relevant subjects to study in school and helps prepare students to participate in the world's greatest democracy.

Mr. Addison is a graduate of Chesterfield County Public Schools. He has a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Mary Washington and a graduate certificate in geographic information science from Northwest Missouri State University. He and his wife have two young children. When Mr. Addison is not studying government or playing with his kids, he enjoys running and traveling.