



**Catholic  
Memorial**  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Year Long Course Plan

**Department:** Social Studies

**Course:** AP United States Government and Politics 664-665

**Essential Learning Outcomes:** After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the sources, evaluate the justification, and analyze the implications of certain rights and responsibilities of citizens
2. Trace how legal interpretations of liberty, equality, justice, and power, as identified in the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other Constitutional Amendments, have changed and evolved over time
3. Analyze different theories of how governmental powers might be used to help promote or hinder liberty, equality, and justice, and develop a reasoned conclusion
4. Identify and analyze significant political benefits, problems, and solutions to problems related to federalism and the separation of powers
5. Describe how past and present American political parties and interest groups have gained or lost influence on political decision-making and voting behavior
6. Locate, organize, analyze, and use information from various sources to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and communicate the position
7. Identify and evaluate the means through which advocates influence public policy
8. Identify ways people may participate effectively in community affairs and the political process
9. Evaluate the ways in which public opinion can be used to influence and shape public policy
10. Explain and analyze how different political and social movements have sought to mobilize public opinion and obtain governmental support in order to achieve their goals
11. Describe the evolution of movements to assert rights by people with disabilities, ethnic and racial groups, minorities, and women

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>
<p><b>Unit 1:</b> Constitutional Underpinnings of the United States Constitution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introducing Government in America</li> <li>2. The Constitution</li> <li>3. Federalism</li> </ol> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> Political Culture – Beliefs and Behaviors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Opinion and Political Action</li> <li>2. The Mass Media and the Political Agenda</li> <li>3. Interest Groups</li> </ol>	<p><b>Unit 3:</b> Political Parties and Electoral Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Political Parties</li> <li>2. Nominations and Campaigns</li> <li>3. Elections and Voting Behavior</li> </ol> <p><b>Unit 4:</b> Congress and the Appropriation Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Congress</li> <li>2. Congress, the President, and the Budget: The Policies of Taxing and Spending</li> </ol>
<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
<p><b>Unit 5:</b> The Executive branch and the Bureaucracy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Presidency</li> <li>2. The Federal Bureaucracy</li> </ol>	<p><b>Unit 7:</b> Public Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Economic Policymaking</li> <li>2. Social Welfare Policymaking</li> <li>3. Policymaking for Healthcare and the Environment</li> </ol>

<p><b>Unit 6:</b></p> <p><b>The Judicial Branch</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Federal Courts</b></li><li><b>2. Civil Liberties and Public Policy</b></li><li><b>3. Civil Rights and Public Policy</b></li></ol>	<p><b>4. Foreign and defense Policymaking</b></p>
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