Unit 02: Political Beliefs & Behaviors

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP US Gov & Pol**
Time Period: **Semester 2**
Length: **10 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Standards

	Historical events and developments were shaped by the unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.
6.1.12.HistoryCC.14.b	Make evidenced-based inferences about the role of partisan politics in presidential impeachments and trials.
	Historical, contemporary, and emerging processes, rules, laws, and policies are modified as societies change in an effort to promote the common good and strive to protect human rights.
6.1.12.CivicsPD.16.a	Construct a claim to describe how media and technology has impacted civic participation and deliberation.
6.1.12.HistoryCC.16.a	Assess from various perspectives the effectiveness with which the United States government addresses economic issues that affect individuals, business, and/or other countries.
6.3.12.HistoryCA.12	Analyze a current foreign policy issue by considering current and historical perspectives, examining strategies, and presenting possible actions.

Enduring Understandings

Throughout our history American political culture has been shaped by diverse forces, institutions, and practices, present within our nation.

Political socialization and opinions impacts voting behavior and elections.

Political parties influence government policies.

- Students will determine, through media literacy skills and lateral, close reading strategies when evaluating primary and secondary resources the following: 1. context of the text; 2. reason for the text; 3. type of source the text is; 4. the point of view of the author of the text 5. the intended audience for the text 6. evaluate the stance of the text
- Students will use Historical Thinking Skills to evaluate sources and ideas. Comparison, Contextualization, Continuity and Change over Time, Periodization, Synthesis, Claims, Point of View, Intended Audience, and Purpose.
- Students will observe, note, and draw conclusions with the understanding that there are multiple perspectives. Multiple perspectives is the foundation to understanding the why and how of history. Documents, primary sources, historical readings will be evaluated.

Essential Questions

What sociological forces affect the political ideologies of Americans?

How does the electoral system, primary and general elections, and campaign finance shape political culture?

Why should civic participation be important to all Americans and how does certain characteristics impact voting behavior?

How do political parties and interest groups impact who controls government and how do they shape public policy decisions?

Knowledge and Skills

Students will examine what drives Americans to adopt certain political ideologies. In addition, they will analyze the steps taken to promote these ideologies within our governmental system through party involvement, elections and media coverage.

How do citizens learn about politics? What does the political spectrum look like in our country today?

Process by which citizens learn about politics

The nature, sources and consequences of public opinion

Difference between political ideology and political culture

Political parties (functions, organization, development, effects on the political process)

Difference between liberals and conservatives

Political socialization

The evolution of our two party system

3rd parties

What are interest groups and how do they effect politics?

The range of interests represented

The activities of the interest groups

The effects of the interest groups on the political process

The unique characteristics and roles of PACs in the political process

Why do most Americans classify themselves as moderates?

Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

Political culture

Political socialization

How are elections won and lost in the United States? What are the ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life?

Electoral laws and systems

Primary

Caucus

Difference between a primary campaign and a campaign for general election

Delegates

Super delegates

Convention

Campaign finance reform

Matching funds

527s and 501c4s

PACs

What initiatives have been created to enhance political participation? Has there been resistance towards these initiatives? Have they been successful?

Registration

Motor voter

Rock the vote and other celebrity voting campaigns

How has the evolution of media technology changed the way Americans think about politics?

The functions and structures of the media

The impact of the media on politics

Transfer Goals

Students will be able to independently apply how linkage institution affect American political culture, including diverse forces, institutions, and practices present within our nation.

Students will to be able to independently determine, analyze, and explain how individual and group identities coalesce and change over time.

Resources

Textbook:

- American Government and Politics Today 2015-2016 Edition by Ford, Bards, Schmidt, and Shelley
- Amsco Review Book

Supplemental Readings:

- Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville
- "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" by Robert Putnam
- "The World is Flat 3.0" by Thomas Friedman
- "The Diversifying Electorate--Voting Rates by Race and Hispanic in 2012 (and Other Recent Elections)" by US Census Bureau
- "Antisocial" by Adam Marantz
- "Issue Salience and Party Choice" by David RePass
- Baker v Carr

Additional Resources from WH databases, and articles connected to the content, including primary readings, historiography, and secondary sources.

News publications, including but not limited to NYTimes, Washington Post.

Upfront Magazine

Pear Deck

Albert i.o.

WH Databases, AI (Gemini, Copilot, Magicshoolai), Pear Deck

Web-based resources including but not limited to digital media (SIFT method), primary sources, peer reviews, historical documents and writings of historians

Videos:

- 2012 Presidential Debates
- 2016 Presidential Debates

- 60 Minutes interview with Grover Norquist
- Various political advertisements from past presidential election
- John Oliver Segment on Voter Suppression

Assessments

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mKgdwpriGuRcVHIVCJUdBEk7lih12Q0ckKSTC4TMUXs/edit

Modifications

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODqaPP69YkcFiyG72fIT8XsUIe3K1VSG7nxuc4CpCec/edit