

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Course of Study

Recommendation for Adoption

Course: AP U.S. Government and Politics

Date: 10-01-2026

Student Level: High School

Grade Level: Grade 11

Characterization of Course of Study:

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Underpinning the required content of the course are several big ideas that allow students to create meaningful connections among concepts throughout the course. Students will also engage in skill development that requires them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete either a political science research project or an applied civics project.

The course will be a 1.0-credit course, satisfying the required social studies credit for 11th grade when taken during the 11th grade year. Along with AP Macroeconomics and AP U.S. History, it allows students to explore topics to a depth the core course does not permit.

Reasons for Proposed Adoption:

A scope and sequence review conducted in 2024-25 identified a missing option for in-depth study of U.S. Civics and Politics in grades 9-12 AP U.S. Government and Politics will provide such an opportunity for our students interested in studying the foundations and workings of American government. Students who complete this course will gain insight they can use as informed citizens upon attaining the age of majority. The course also offers a platform for enhancing research skills, particularly methodologies characteristic of the social sciences. Developing such skills will prepare students more thoroughly for 12th grade coursework as well as academic work students complete after graduation.

Principal Approval Date: _____

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: _____

School Board Approval Date: _____