

**HADDON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW**  
**SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

**COURSE TITLE:** Advanced Placement American Government and Politics

**TEXTS:**

Burns, et al. *Government by the People*. 23rd edition

[http://wps.prenhall.com/hss\\_magleby\\_government\\_21](http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_magleby_government_21) (website for older version)

Woll, Peter. *American Government: Readings and Cases*. 17th edition

**NJCCS Standards:**

**6.1 U.S. History: America in the World** All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century** All students will acquire the skills needed to be active, informed citizens who value diversity and promote cultural understanding by working collaboratively to address the challenges that are inherent in living in an interconnected world.

**COURSE OF STUDY:**

Unit I--Constitutional Underpinnings of US Government

A. Philosophical Foundations of the Constitution

(Burns, ch. 1 and Woll ch. 1 [selected readings]; Declaration of Independence)

B. Constitutional principles (Burns, ch. 2

and Woll #5; read the US Constitution)

C. Federalism (Burns, ch. 3 and Woll #7, 8 ,9)

Unit II--Political Beliefs and Culture (Burns, ch. 4 & 5)

A. American Political Culture

B. Political Ideology

C. Development of American Political Ideology

(Burns, ch. 8)

### Unit III--Interest Groups, Mass Media and Public Opinion

(Burns, ch. 6; Woll, readings # 30,31,32, 33, 34)

A. Interest groups

B. the Media

(Burns, ch. 10)

C. Public opinion

(Burns, ch. 8; Woll, readings #26, 28, 29)

### Unit IV--Institutions of Federal Government

A. Congress (Burns, ch. 11; Woll, ch 8, selected readings)

B. the Presidency (Burns, ch. 12; Woll, ch 6, selected readings)

C. Congress and the President--the struggle over power

D. Getting elected (Burns, ch. 9)

\*case study--the elections of 2000 & 2004

E. the Judiciary (Burns, ch. 14; Woll, ch 9, selected readings)

F. the Bureaucracy (Burns, ch. 13; Woll, ch 8, selected readings)

### Unit V--Public Policy (Burns, ch. 18, 19 & 20;

Woll, readings #47, 48)

A. Economic policy

B. Social policy

C. study of contemporary policy issues (environment, deregulation, welfare reform, tobacco policy, other issues)

### Unit VI--Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

A. First Amendment (Burns, ch. 15; Woll, readings ch. 3)

- B. Fourteenth Amendment (Burns, ch. 16, 17;  
Woll, readings ch. 3)
1. Due Process clause
  2. Equal protection clause
  3. voting rights
  4. 4th and 5th amendment protections extended to states
  5. right to privacy
  6. Affirmative Action

Unit VII--State and Local Government of New Jersey, including current politics

Unit VIII—Career search project as part of Financial Literacy requirement

**MINIMAL STUDENT PROFICIENCIES:**

THE STUDENT WILL:

- A. Be able to analyze and explain the theoretical basis for our U.S. political system
- B. Be able to comprehend the basis constitutional principles.
- C. Be able to understand and explain political beliefs and behaviors.
- D. Be able to explain the impact of political parties and special interest groups on political procedures.
- E. Be able to understand and explain the roles of governmental institutions, for example, the Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy, and the Judiciary.
- F. Be able to engage in in-depth reading and research.
- G. Be able to apply current events to theoretical course material.
- H. Be able, using the “Evaluation Procedures” below, to achieve an average of at least a “C”.
- I. Be able to demonstrate knowledge of and application of those career life skills topics addressed.