

**NORTHERN BURLINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
2018 Course Map**

Department	Social Studies	Course	AP United States Government and Politics
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Source of Standards [AP Standards](#) [NJ 2014 Social Studies Standards](#)

- AP Government Standards
- New Jersey Student Learning Standards 2014
 - Social Studies
- [21st Century Skills/Career Ready Practices](#) (
- [Technology Standards](#)

Sequence- Unit Titles and Number of weeks per unit

- Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy- 4 Weeks
- Unit 2: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs- 2 Weeks
- Unit 3: Political Participation- 6 weeks
- Unit 4: Interactions Amongst Branches of Government- 12 weeks
- Unit 5: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties- 4 weeks
- Unit 6: AP Exam Review- 2 weeks
- Unit 7: Political Satire- 4 weeks

[Enduring Understanding](#) (link to guide)

The founding fathers used the ideas of Enlightenment philosophers to develop a new system for exercising political power.

The American system of government creates a balance between government authority and individual liberty through the use of a system of checks and balances and federalism.

American political culture is based largely on the ideals of liberty and quality.

Political ideology is based largely on one's identity, family, geographic location, religion, and education.

Many Americans that are eligible to vote choose to not exercise this right for a variety of reasons.

That Americans participate in government in a variety of ways aside from voting.

Political parties organize candidates to simplify the election process.

Party affiliation is a strong indicator of voting behaviors.

Political parties have evolved throughout American history.

The United States government has made efforts to create regulations in regards to campaign finance.

Interest groups play a major role in funding elections.

The media can act as a gatekeeper, scorekeeper, or watchdog when reporting a story. Media plays an essential part in ensuring that a candidate or politician can sell a platform.

Technology has simultaneously increased voter exposure to information while also increasing false stories and sensationalism.

The legislative process was designed to be intricate and complex to ensure that lawmakers carefully consider the impact of their votes.

The president's influence is determined by his relationship with Congress, the media, and the American public.

The bureaucracy enables the everyday functions of government to occur.

The judiciary works to uphold the Constitution by determining if actions by the government or individuals are within the law.

The Bill of Rights provides Americans with uniform liberties that involve personal matter such as religion, speech, and expression.

Certain exceptions are made in the name of safety and security.

The government has enacted policies to expand the rights of minorities and women.

Social trends, personal prejudices, and historical events have impacted the success of Civil Rights legislation.

Political beliefs are formed based off of gender, race, economic status, geographic location, education, and personal experiences.

American government works to protect liberty while maintaining equality for all citizens.

The four institutions of government interact to develop and implement policy.

Civil rights and liberties are at times curtailed for the sake of safety.

Satire has evolved with American politics and technological developments.

Satire is often based on some factual evidence, but exaggerates information to create a humorous effect.

Satire can impact public opinion and voter behavior.

[Essential Questions \(link to guide\)](#)

What is political power and how is it exercised in the American system of government?

Why is the creation of the American System of government considered to be revolutionary?

How are American political beliefs formed and how do they evolve over time?

How do political ideology and core values influence government policy making?

What factors influence the Americans that choose to not vote?

Why do some groups of Americans participate in politics at higher rates than others?

What historical events have discouraged voter turnout amongst targeted groups of Americans?

Why did the Founding Fathers distrust the formation of political parties?

Which groups typically align with which party?

How are candidates nominated by the political party?

What steps are taken by political parties to decrease voter influence on elections?

How do interest groups legally influence elections?
What government regulations surround campaign finance?
What is the responsibility of the media? Does this align with reality?
How did the development of television and the internet change campaigns?
What biases exist in the media? How can this be checked by the voting public or government?
What are the responsibilities and powers of the Legislative, Executive, Judicial branches and the federal bureaucracy?
What influences the actions and decisions of these institutions?
What are the rights guaranteed to all American citizens?
What exceptions are made in regards to these rights? What reasons are provided to justify these actions?
What progress has been made in regards to the rights of minorities and women?
How are political ideologies formed?
How do outside influences determine political outcomes?
What are the four institutions of American government and how do they interact?
What rights do all American citizens have and how are these rights at times limited by the government?
What is satire?
How can satire generate positive or negative opinions in regards to a candidate?
What are some examples of satire generated from the left and the right?
How do voters respond to satire?

[Reporting Student Progress \(link to pyramid\)](#)

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice, Assessments, Evaluations. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

[Accommodations and Modifications \(link to menu\)](#)

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans

Resources (Text and Technology)

- American Government: Institution and Policies
- Federalist 10
- Brutus 1
- Articles of Confederation
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Bill of Rights
- McCulloch v. Maryland
- United States v. Lopez
- Marbury v. Madison
- American Polity

- Barack Obama's 2004 DNC Speech
- Baker v. Carr
- Shaw v. Reno
- Citizens United v. FEC
- Daily Show: Gerrymandering
- Frontline/PBS: Putin's Revenge
- Federalist 51
- Federalist 70
- Federalist 78
- Frontline/PBS: Obama's Deal
- Letter from a Birmingham Jail
- Barron's AP Government Review