

Unit 1: Foundations of Democracy

The U.S. Constitution arose out of important historical and philosophical ideas and preferences regarding **popular sovereignty** and **limited government**. To address competing states' visions for the allocation of governmental authority, **compromises** were made during the Constitutional Convention and ratification debates, and these compromises have frequently been the source of debate and negotiation in U.S. politics over the **proper balance between federal and state power** and between **liberty and social order**.

- A. A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.
 - B. The Constitution emerged from the debate about weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.
 - C. The Constitution creates a complex competitive policy-making process to ensure the people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved.
 - D. Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.
1. The U.S. government is based on ideas of **limited government**, including **natural rights**, **popular sovereignty**, **republicanism**, and **social contract**.
 2. The **Declaration of Independence**, drafted by Jefferson with help from Adams and Franklin, provides a **foundation for popular sovereignty**, while the U.S. **Constitution** drafted at the Philadelphia Convention and led by George Washington, with important contributions from Madison and Hamilton, and members of the "Grand Committee," **provides the blue print for a unique form of political democracy** in the U.S.
 3. Representative democracies can take several forms along this scale:
 - **Participatory democracy**, which emphasizes **broad participation** in politics and civil society
 - **Pluralist democracy**, which recognizes **group-based activism** by nongovernmental interests striving for impact on political decision making
 - **Elite democracy**, where decisions are made by **elected representatives acting as trustees**
 4. Different aspects of the U.S. Constitution as well as the debate between the **Federalists** and **Anti-Federalists** in *Federalist 10* and *Brutus 1* reflect the tension between the broad participatory model and the more filtered participation of the pluralist and elite models.
 5. The three models of representative democracy continue to be reflected in contemporary institutions and political behavior.
 6. Madison's arguments in *Federalist 10* focused on the superiority of a **large republic** in controlling the "**mischief of faction**," delegating authority to elected representatives, and dispersing power between the states and national government.
 7. Anti-Federalist writings including *Brutus 1* adhered to popular democratic theory that emphasized the benefits of a **small-decentralized republic**, while warning of the dangers to personal liberty from a large, centralized government.
 8. Specific incidents and legal challenges that highlighted key **weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation** are represented by the:
 - **Lack of centralized military** power to address Shays' Rebellion
 - **Lack of tax law enforcement** power
 - **Requirement of unanimity of all states** to amend the Articles
 9. **Compromise** deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution are represented by the:
 - **Great (Connecticut) Compromise**
 - **Electoral College**
 - **Three-Fifths Compromise**
 - **Compromise on the importation of slaves**
 10. Debates about the self-government during the drafting of the Constitution necessitated the drafting of an **amendment process in Article V** that entailed either a two-thirds vote in both houses or a proposal from two-thirds of the state legislatures, with final ratification determined by three-fourths of the states.
 11. The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left **some matters unresolved** that continue to generate discussion and debate today.
 12. The debate over the **role of the central government**, the **powers of state governments**, and the rights of individuals remains at the heart of present-day constitutional issues about democracy and governmental power, as represented by:
 - Debates about government surveillance resulting from the federal government's response to the 9/11 attacks.
 - The debate about the role of the federal government in public school education.
 13. The powers allocated to Congress, the president, and the courts demonstrate the **separation of powers and checks and balances** features of the U.S. Constitution.
 14. **Federalist #51** explains how constitutional provisions of **separation of powers and checks and balances** control abuses by majorities.
 15. Multiple **access points** for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy flows from the separation of powers and checks and balances.
 16. **Impeachment**, removal, and other legal actions taken against public officials deemed to have abused their power **reflect the purpose of checks and balances**.
 17. The **exclusive and concurrent powers** of the national and state governments help to explain the negotiations over the balance of power between the two levels.
 18. The **distribution of power between federal and state governments** to meet the needs of society changes, as reflected by **grants**, incentives, and aid programs, including federal revenue sharing, **mandates**, **categorical grants**, and **block grants**.
 19. The interpretation of the **Tenth and Fourteenth Amendments**, the **Commerce Clause**, the **Necessary and Proper Clause**, and other enumerated and implied powers is at the heart of the **debate over the balance of power** between the national and state governments.
 20. The balance of power between the national and state governments has changed over time based on **U.S. Supreme Court interpretation** of such cases as:
 - **McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)**—which declared that Congress has implied powers necessary to implement its enumerated powers and **established supremacy** of the U.S. Constitution and **federal laws over the states**.
 - **U.S. v. Lopez (1995)**—which ruled that Congress may not use the Commerce Clause to make possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime, introducing a **new phase of federalism that recognized the importance of state sovereignty and local control**.
 21. **Multiple access points** for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy **flows from the allocation of powers between national and state governments**.
 22. **National policy-making is constrained** by the sharing of power **between and among the three branches and the state governments**.

Unit 2: Interaction Among Branches of Government

Because power is widely distributed and checks prevent one branch from usurping powers from the others, institutional actors are in the position where they must both compete and cooperate in order to govern.

- A. The republican ideal in the United States is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch. (Constitutionalism)
- B. The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers. (Constitutionalism)
- C. The design of the judicial branch protects the Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice. (Constitutionalism)
- D. The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes-questionable accountability. (Competing policy-making interests)
1. The **Senate** is designed to **represent states equally**, while the **House** is designed to **represent the population**.
 2. **Different chamber** sizes and constituencies influence **formality of debate**.
 3. **Coalitions** in Congress are affected by **term-length differences**.
 4. The **enumerated** and **implied powers** in the Constitution allow the creation of public policy by Congress, which includes:
 - Passing a **federal budget**, raising revenue, and coining money
 - **Declaring war** and maintaining the armed forces
 - Enacting legislation that addresses a wide range of economic, environmental, and social issues based on the **Necessary and Proper Clause**
 5. By design, the **different structures**, powers, and functions of Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives) **affect the policy-making process**.
 6. Though **both chambers rely on committees** to conduct hearings and debate bills under consideration, **different constitutional responsibilities of the House and Senate affect the policy-making process**.
 7. **Chamber-specific procedures, rules, and roles** that impact the policy-making process include:
 - Number of chamber and debate rules that set the **bar high for building majority support**
 - Roles of **Speaker of the House, party leadership, and committee leadership** in both chambers
 - **Filibuster and cloture**
 - **Holds and unanimous consent** in the Senate
 - Role of the **Rules Committee, Committee of the Whole, and discharge petitions** in the House
 - **Treaty ratification and confirmation role of the U.S. Senate**
 8. Congress must generate a **budget** that addresses both **discretionary and mandatory spending**, and as **entitlement** costs grow, discretionary spending opportunities will decrease unless tax revenues increase or the budget deficit increases.
 9. **Pork barrel legislation, and logrolling** affect lawmaking in both chambers.
 10. **Congressional behavior** and governing effectiveness are influenced by:
 - **Ideological divisions** within Congress that can lead to gridlock or create the need for negotiation and compromise
 - **Gerrymandering**, redistricting, and unequal representation of constituencies that have increased partisanship and decreased accountability, partially addressed by such Court decisions as the "one-person, one-vote" ruling in **Baker v. Carr** (1961) and the no **racial gerrymandering** decision in **Shaw v. Reno** (1993)
 - Elections that have led to a "**divided government**," including partisan votes against presidential initiative and congressional refusal to confirm appointments of "lame-duck" presidents of the opposite party.
 - Differing role conceptions of "**trustee**," "**delegate**," and "**politico**" as related to constituent accountability in each chamber
 11. **Presidents** use **powers** and functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.
 12. **Formal and informal powers** of the president are represented by:
 - **Veto**es and **pocket vetoes**—Formal powers that enable the president to check Congress
 - **Treaties and executive agreements**—Formal powers to influence relations with foreign nations
 - **Bargaining and persuasion**—Informal power that enables the president to secure congressional action
 - **Executive orders**—Implied from the president's vested "executive power," or from power delegated by Congress, executive orders allow the president to manage the federal government
 - **Signing statements**—Informal power that informs Congress and the public of the president's interpretation of laws passed by Congress and signed by the president
 13. The potential for **conflict with the Senate** depends upon the type of executive branch appointments, including:
 - Cabinet members
 - Ambassadors
 - White House Staff
 14. **Senate confirmation** is an important check on appointment powers, but the president's longest lasting influence lies in **judicial life tenured appointments**.
 15. Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to **conflict with the Congressional agenda**.
 16. Justifications for a **single executive** are set forth in **Federalist 70**.
 17. Term-of-office and constitutional-power restrictions, including the passage of the **22nd Amendment**, **demonstrate changing presidential roles**.
 18. Different **perspectives on the presidential role**, ranging from a limited to a more expansive interpretation and use of power, continue to be **debated** in the context of contemporary events.
 19. The **communication** impact of the presidency can be demonstrated through such factors as:
 - **Modern technology**, social media, and rapid response to political issues
 - Nationally broadcast **State of the Union messages**, and the president's "**bully pulpit**" used as tools for agenda setting
 20. The foundation for powers of the **judicial branch** and how its **independence** checks the power of other institutions and state governments are set forth in:
 - Article III of the Constitution
 - **Federalist 78**
 - **Marbury v. Madison** (1803)

21. **Judicial review**, the supremacy clause and the principle of legal standing demonstrate how the judiciary checks the power of other institutions and state governments.
22. **Precedents** and *stare decisis* play an important role in **judicial decision-making**.
23. **Ideological changes in the composition of the Supreme Court** due to **presidential appointments** have led to the Court's establishing new or rejecting existing precedents.
24. Controversial or unpopular court decisions can lead to challenges of the **Court's legitimacy** and power which Congress and the president can address only through **future appointments, legislation changing the Court's jurisdiction, or refusing to implement decisions**.
25. Political discussion about the Supreme Court's power is illustrated by the ongoing **debate over judicial activism versus judicial restraint**.
26. **Restrictions** on the Supreme Court are represented by:
 - **Congressional legislation to modify** the impact of prior Supreme Court decisions
 - **Constitutional amendments**
 - **Judicial appointments and confirmations**
 - The **president** and states evading or **ignoring Supreme Court decisions**
 - **Legislation** impacting court jurisdiction
27. **Tasks performed by departments, agencies, commissions**, and government corporations are represented by:
 - **Writing and enforcing regulations**
 - **Issuing fines**
 - **Testifying** before Congress
 - **Issue networks** and "iron triangles"
28. Political **patronage, civil service, and merit system** reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.
29. **Discretionary** and **rule-making authority** to implement policy are given to bureaucratic agencies such as:
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - U.S. Department of Defense
 - U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Department of Transportation
 - U.S. Department of State
 - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Federal Elections Commission (FEC)
 - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
30. **Oversight** and methods used by Congress to ensure that legislation is implemented as intended are represented by:
 - **Committee hearings**
 - **Power of the purse**
31. As a means to curtail the use of presidential power, "**congressional oversight**" serves as a **check of executive authorization and appropriation**.
32. **Presidential ideology, authority, and influence** affect how executive branch agencies carry out the goals of the administration.
33. **Compliance monitoring** can pose a challenge to policy implementation.
34. **Formal and informal powers of Congress, the president, and the courts over the bureaucracy** are used to maintain accountability.



How can each branch of government tread on the prerogative of the others?

Unit 3: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Through the U.S. Constitution, but primarily through the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment, citizens and groups have attempted to restrict national and state governments from unduly infringing upon individual rights and from denying equal protection under the law. Sometimes the Court has handed down decisions that protect both public order and individual freedom, and at other times the Court has set precedents protecting one at the expense of the other.

- A. Provisions of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals. (Liberty and Order)
 - B. Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment's "due process" clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties. (Liberty and Order)
 - C. The Fourteenth Amendment's "equal protection clause" as well as other constitutional provisions have often been used to support the advancement of equality. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)
 - D. Public policy promoting civil rights is influenced by citizen-state interactions and constitutional interpretation over time. (Competing policy-making interests)
 - E. The Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them. (Constitutionalism)
1. The U.S. Constitution includes a **Bill of Rights** specifically designed to **protect individual liberties and rights**.
 2. **Civil liberties** are constitutionally established guarantees and **freedoms that protect citizens**, opinions, and property against arbitrary government interference.
 3. The **application** of the Bill of Rights is continuously **interpreted by the courts**.
 4. The **Bill of Rights** consists of the **first ten Amendments** to the Constitution, which enumerate the liberties and rights of individuals.
 5. The interpretation and application of the **First Amendment's establishment and free exercise clauses** reflect an ongoing debate over balancing majoritarian **religious practice** and free exercise, as represented by such cases as:
 - **Engel v. Vitale** (1962)—which declared **school sponsorship of religious activities** violates the establishment clause
 - **Wisconsin v. Yoder** (1972)—which held that **compelling Amish students to attend school** past the 8th grade violates the free exercise clause
 6. The Supreme Court has held that **symbolic speech** is protected by the First Amendment, demonstrated by **Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District** (1969), in which the Court ruled that public-school students could wear **black armbands** in school to protest the Vietnam War.
 7. Efforts to **balance social order and individual freedom** are reflected in interpretations of the First Amendment that limit speech, including:
 - Time, place, and manner regulations
 - Defamatory, offensive, and obscene statements and gestures
 - That which creates a "**clear and present danger**" based on the ruling in **Schenck v. United States** (1919)
 8. In **New York Times Company v. United States** (1971) the Supreme Court bolstered the freedom of the **press**, establishing a "**heavy presumption against prior restraint**" even in cases involving national security.
 9. The Supreme Court's decisions on the **Second Amendment** rest upon its constitutional interpretation of **individual liberty**.
 10. Court decisions defining **cruel and unusual punishment** involve interpretation of the **Eighth Amendment and its application to state death penalty statutes**.
 11. The **debate** about the **Second and Fourth Amendments** involves concerns about public safety and whether or not the regulation of firearms or collection of digital metadata promotes or **interferes with public safety and/or individual rights**.
 12. The doctrine of **selective incorporation** has imposed limitations on state regulation of civil rights and liberties as represented by: **McDonald v. Chicago** (2010), which ruled the 2nd Amendment's **right to keep and bear arms** for self-defense in one's home is **applicable to the states through the 14th Amendment**
 13. The **Court** has on occasion **ruled on enhancing states' power over individual liberty** in spite of selective incorporation, as represented by:
 - **Gitlow v. New York** (1925), which held that while the **First Amendment applies to the states** via the 14th Amendment, the states may prohibit speech having a tendency to cause danger to public safety
 14. The **Miranda rule** involves the interpretation and application of accused persons' **due process rights as protected by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments**, yet the Court has sanctioned a "public safety" exception that allows unwarned interrogation to stand as direct evidence in court.
 15. Pretrial rights of the accused and the prohibition of unreasonable searches and seizures are **intended to ensure that citizen liberties** are not eclipsed by the **need for social order and security**, including:
 - The right to **legal counsel**, speedy and public trial, and an impartial jury
 - Protection against **warrantless searches** of cell phone data
 - Limitations placed on bulk collection of telecommunication **metadata** (**Patriot and USA Freedom Acts**)
 16. The **due process clause** has been applied to guarantee the right to an attorney and protection from unreasonable and searches and seizures, as represented by:
 - **Gideon v. Wainwright** (1963), which guaranteed the right to an **attorney** for the poor or indigent
 - **The exclusionary rule** that stipulates evidence **illegally seized by law enforcement officers in violation of the suspect's Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures cannot be used against that suspect in criminal prosecution**.
 17. While a **right to privacy is not explicitly named in the Constitution**, the Court has interpreted the due process clause to protect the right of privacy from state infringement. This interpretation of the due process clause has been the subject of controversy:
 - **Roe v. Wade** (1973)—which **extended the right of privacy to a woman's decision to have an abortion** while recognizing compelling state interests in potential life and maternal health
 18. **Civil rights protects individuals from discrimination based on characteristics such as race, national origin, religion, and sex; these rights are guaranteed to all citizens** under the due process and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution, as well as acts of Congress.
 19. The leadership and events associated with civil, women's, and LGBT rights are evidence of how the equal protection clause can motivate social movements, as represented by:
 - Dr. Martin Luther King's "**Letter from a Birmingham jail**" and the civil rights movement of the 1960s
 - **National Organization for Women and the women's rights movement**
 - Pro-life (Anti-abortion) movement
 20. The government can respond to social **movements** through court rulings and/or policies:
 - The **Civil Rights Act of 1964**

- **Title IX** of the Civil Rights Act Amendments (1972)
 - The **Voting Rights Act of 1965**
 - **Brown v. Board of Education I** (1954)—which declared that **race-based school segregation violates the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause**
 - **Brown v. Board of Education II** (1955)—which held that school districts and federal district courts must implement the Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education I* (1954) "with all deliberate speed"
21. Decisions affecting the rights of minority groups demonstrates that **minority rights have been restricted at times and protected at other times**, as represented by:
- **Plessy v. Ferguson** (1896)—which upheld "**separate but equal**" racial segregation by the states
 - **Brown v. Board of Education I** (1954)—which declared that **race-based school segregation violates the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause**
 - **Brown v. Board of Education II** (1955) – which held that school districts and federal district courts must implement the Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education I* (1954) "with all deliberate speed"
 - The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of the majority in cases that limit and prohibit majority–minority districting.
22. The **debate on affirmative action includes justices who insist that the Constitution is colorblind and those who maintain that it forbids only racial classifications designed to harm minorities, not help them.**

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

American political beliefs are shaped by founding ideals, core values, and the changing demographics of the citizenry. The beliefs about government, politics, and the individual's role in the political system influence the creation of ideological trends that span decades impacting public policies.

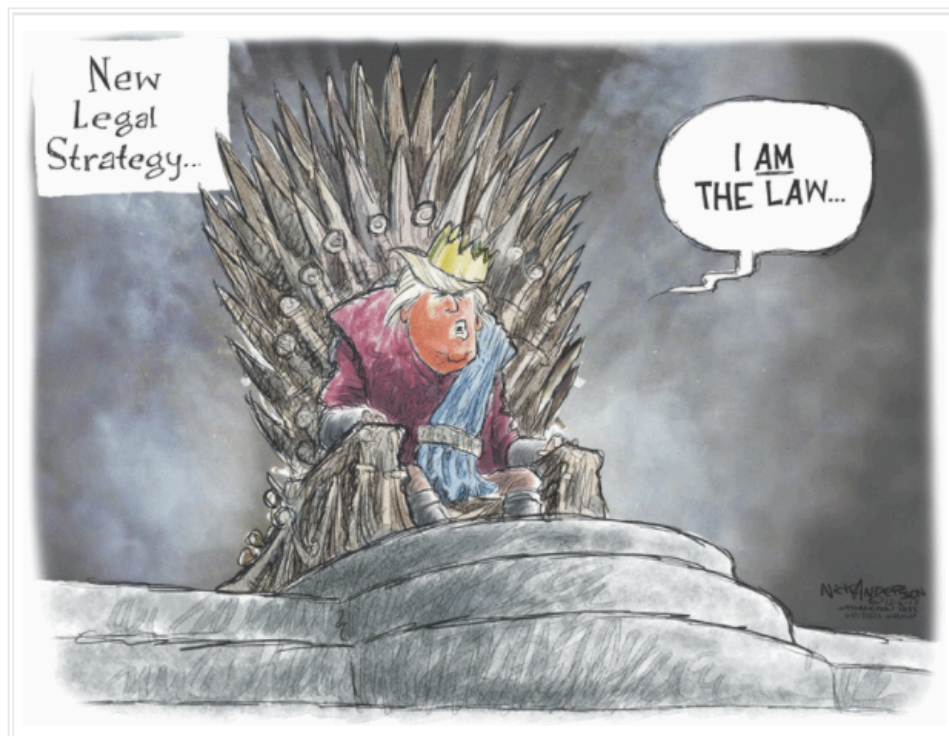
- Citizens' beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change. (Methods of political analysis)**
 - Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions. (Methods of political analysis)**
 - Widely held political values shape the policy choices available in American politics. (Competing policy-making interests)**
- Different **interpretations of core values, including individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, and limited government** affect the relationship between citizens and the federal government and that citizens have with each other.
 - Family, schools, peers, media, social environments (including civic and religious organizations) contribute to the development of an individual's political attitudes** and values through the process of political socialization.
 - The relative importance of major **political events** to the development of individual political attitudes is an example of **political socialization**.
 - Generational and lifecycle effects also contribute to the **political socialization** that **influences an individual's political attitudes**.
 - As a result of **globalization**, U.S. political culture has both **influenced and been influenced by the values of other countries**.
 - Public opinion data** can impact elections and policy debates is affected by such scientific polling types and methods as:
 - Type of poll (**opinion polls, benchmark or tracking polls, entrance and exit polls**)
 - **Sampling techniques**, identification of respondents, mass survey or focus group, sampling error
 - Type and format of **questions**
 - The relationship between **scientific polling and elections** and policy debates is affected the:
 - Importance of public opinion as a source of **political influence** in a given election or policy debate
 - **Reliability** and veracity of public opinion data
 - The Democratic **Party** (D or DEM) **platforms** generally align more closely to liberal ideological positions, and the Republican Party (R or GOP) platforms generally align more closely to conservative ideological positions.
 - Because the U.S. is a **democracy with a diverse society**, public policies generated at any given time reflect the attitudes and beliefs of citizens who choose to participate in politics at that time.
 - The balancing dynamic of individual liberty and government efforts to promote stability and order has been reflected in policy debates and their outcomes over time.
 - Liberal ideologies favor more government regulation** of the marketplace, **conservative ideologies favor fewer regulations**, and libertarian ideologies favor little or no regulation of the marketplace beyond the protection of property rights and voluntary trade.
 - Ideological differences on marketplace regulation are based on different theoretical support, including **Keynesian** and supply-side positions on **monetary and fiscal policies** promoted by the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve.
 - Liberal ideologies favor less governmental regulation of personal privacy** and more involvement in promoting social and economic equality; **conservative ideologies favor more government of personal privacy** and less governmental involvement to ensure social and economic equality; libertarian ideology opposes any governmental regulation of personal privacy or social/economic equality beyond the protection of individual liberties and private property.
 - Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of **conservative or liberal perspectives** in political parties.

Unit 5: Political Participation

Governing is achieved directly through citizen participation and indirectly through linkage institutions (e.g. political parties, interest groups, and mass media) that inform, organize, and mobilize support to influence government and politics, resulting in many venues for citizen influence on policy making.

- A. **Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation. (Methods of political analysis)**
 - B. **Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)**
 - C. **The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)**
 - D. **The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)**
1. Legal protections found in federal legislation and the **15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments** relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation.
 2. Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include:
 - **Rational choice**—Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual interest
 - **Retrospective voting**—Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past
 - **Prospective voting**—Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future
 - **Party-line voting**—Supporting a party by voting for candidates from one political party for all public offices at the same level of government
 3. **Structural barriers, political efficacy, and demographics** can predict differences in voter turnout in the U.S., and the following can influence voter turnout among democracies worldwide:
 - **National versus state-controlled elections**
 - Voter registration laws and procedures
 - Voting incentives or penalties or fines
 - **Midterm or presidential election type**
 4. Demographic characteristics and political efficacy or engagement are used to predict the likelihood of whether an individual will vote.
 5. Factors influencing voter choice include:
 - **Party identification and ideological orientation**
 - **Candidate characteristics**
 - **Contemporary political issues**
 - **Religious beliefs or affiliation, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics**
 6. **Linkage institutions** are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers:
 - Parties
 - Interest Groups
 - Elections
 - Media
 7. The functions and **impact of political parties** on the electorate and government are represented by:
 - **Mobilization and education of voters**
 - **Party platforms**
 - **Candidate recruitment**
 - **Campaign management, including fundraising and media strategy**
 - **The committee and party leadership systems in legislatures influence the ability of political parties to carry out citizen preferences in government decision-making.**
 8. Parties have adapted to **candidate-centered campaigns**, and their role in nominating candidates has been weakened.
 9. Parties **modify their policies and messaging** to appeal to various demographic coalitions.
 10. The **structure of parties** has been influenced by:
 - **Regional realignments**
 - **Campaign finance law**
 - **Changes in communication and data-management technology**
 11. In comparison to proportional systems, **winner-take-all voting districts** serve as a **structural barrier to third party** and independent candidate success.
 12. The **incorporation of third-party agendas into platforms of major political parties** serves as a barrier to third party and independent candidate success.
 13. **Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies.**
 14. In addition to working within party coalitions, **interest groups exert influence through long standing relationships with bureaucratic agencies**, Congressional committees, and other interest groups; such relationships are described as **"iron triangles" and issue networks** and they help interest groups exert influence across political party coalitions.
 15. Interest group influence may be impacted by:
 - **Inequality of resources**
 - **Unequal access to decision makers**
 - **"Free rider" problem**
 16. **Single-issue groups**, ideological/social movements, and protest movements form with the goal of impacting society and policy making.
 17. Competing actors such as interest groups, professional organizations, social movements, the military, and bureaucratic agencies influence policy-making, such as **the federal budget process**, at key stages and to varying degrees.
 18. Elections and political parties are related to major policy shifts or initiatives, occasionally leading to political **realignments** of voting constituencies.
 19. The process and outcomes in **U.S. presidential elections** are impacted by:
 - **Open and closed primaries**

- **Caucuses**
 - **Party Conventions**
 - **General (presidential) Elections**
 - **The Electoral College**
20. The **winner-take-all allocation of votes per state** (except Maine and Nebraska) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.
 21. The process and outcomes in **U.S. Congressional elections** are impacted by:
 - Open and closed primaries
 - **Caucuses**
 - **Party Conventions**
 - **General (presidential and mid-term) Elections**
 22. The benefits and drawbacks of **modern campaigns** are represented by:
 - **Dependence on professional consultants**
 - **Rising campaign costs and intensive fundraising efforts**
 - **Duration of election cycles**
 - **Impact of and reliance on social media for campaign communication and fundraising**
 23. Federal legislation and case law pertaining to **campaign finance** demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech, as set forth in:
 - ***Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)** – which rules that campaign spending is a form of protected speech under the **First Amendment**, but upheld restrictions on political campaign contributions by individuals
 - **Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002)** – which was an **effort to ban soft money** and reduce attack ads with “Stand by Your Ad” provision, “I’m [candidate name] and I approve this message
 - ***Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* (2010)**—which ruled that political spending by **corporations**, associations, and labor unions is a **form of protected speech under the First Amendment**
 24. **Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections** related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, PACs and political parties).
 25. Different types of political action committees (**PACs**) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.
 26. **Traditional news media, new communication technologies** and advances in social media have profoundly **influenced how citizens routinely acquire political information**, including news events, investigative journalism, election coverage, and political commentary.
 27. The media’s use of **polling results** to convey popular levels of **trust and confidence in government can impact elections** by turning such events into “**horse races**” based more on popularity and factors other than qualifications and platforms of candidates.
 28. **Political participation is influenced by a variety of media coverage**, analysis, and commentary on political events.
 29. The rapidly increasing **demand for media and political communications outlets from an ideologically diverse audience** have led to debates over media bias and the impact of media ownership and partisan news sites.
 30. The nature of democratic debate and the level of political knowledge among citizens is impacted by:
 - **Increased media choices**
 - **Ideologically oriented programming**
 - **Consumer-driven media outlets and emerging technologies that reinforce existing beliefs**
 - **Uncertainty over the credibility of news sources and information**



How do “we the people” hold our governmental accountable?

Required Supreme Court Cases

1. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) National Supremacy/National Bank
2. U.S. v. Lopez (1995) Abuse of the commerce clause/Gun Free School Zone/Federalism
3. Engel v. Vitale (1962) 1st Amendment/Establishment Clause of Religion/Public school prayer
4. Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972) 1st Amendment/Free Exercise of Religion/Amish attending school
5. Tinker v. Des Moines (1969) 1st Amendment/Free Speech/Symbolic speech/Black arm bands in school
6. New York Times Company v. U.S. (1971) 1st Amendment/Free press/National security...gov't secrets
7. Schenck v. U.S. (1919) 1st Amendment/Clear and present danger/Protesting WWI
8. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) 6th Amendment/Right to an attorney/Selective incorporation
9. Roe v. Wade (1973) Right to privacy/Woman's right to choose an abortion
10. McDonald v. Chicago (2010) 2nd Amendment/Selective incorporation/Owning handguns
11. Brown v. Board of Education, I (1954) 14th Amendment/Equal protection/Integrating schools
12. Citizens United v. FEC (2010) 1st Amendment/Speech/Corporations can donate soft money
13. Baker v. Carr (1961) 14th Amendment/Equal protection/one-man-one-vote/malapportionment
14. Shaw v. Reno (1993) 14th Amendment/Equal protection/racial gerrymandering/strict scrutiny of race
15. Marbury v. Madison (1803) Judicial review/ruled an act of Congress unconstitutional

Required Foundational Documents

1. *Federalist 10* Ills of factions/need a large republic/pluralism
2. *Brutus*, "1: To the Citizens of the State of New-York." *Opponent of a large centralized gov't*
3. The Declaration of Independence. *American Creed/rooted in popular sovereignty*
4. The Articles of Confederation. *First U.S. government – failed/central government was too weak*
5. The U.S. Constitution (including the Bill of Rights and following Amendments). *Gov't blue print*
6. *Federalist 51* Essay arguing for a stronger central government/the benefits of checks and balances
7. *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Martin Luther King, Jr.
8. *Federalist 70* The Executive Department" Essay advocating for an energetic President
9. *Federalist 78* "The Judiciary Department" Essay advocating for an independent judiciary

The COURSE: What should I know?

The AP American Government Course is made up of:

5 Big Ideas
5 Units [*Foundations/Branches/Liberties & Rights/Ideologies/Participation*]
20 Enduring Understandings
61 Learning Objectives
123 Essential Knowledge Points

15 required Supreme Court cases
9 required foundational documents

The SKILLS: What am I able to do?

Apply concepts
Analyze quantitative and qualitative data
Analyze text-based sources
Compare – similarities and differences of political concepts
Identify essential knowledge points
Argue

The TEST: What should I expect on the exam?

Section I

Multiple Choice — 55 Questions | 1 Hour, 20 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Quantitative Analysis: Analysis and application of quantitative-based source material
- Qualitative Analysis: Analysis and application of text-based (primary and secondary) sources
- Visual Analysis: Analysis and application of qualitative visual information
- Concept Application: Explanation of the application of political concepts in context
- Comparison: Explanation of the similarities and differences of political concepts
- Knowledge: Identification and definition of political principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors

Section II

Free Response — 4 Questions | 1 Hour, 40 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score

- Concept Application: Respond to a political scenario, explaining how it relates to a political principle, institution, process, policy, or behavior (3 points/12.5% of test)
- Quantitative Analysis: Analyze quantitative data, identify a trend or pattern, draw a conclusion for the visual representation, and explain how it relates to a political principle, institution, process, policy, or behavior (4 points/12.5% of test)
- SCOTUS Comparison: Compare a nonrequired Supreme Court case with a required Supreme Court case, explaining how information from the required case is relevant to that in the nonrequired one (4 points/12.5% of test)
- Argument Essay: Develop an argument in the form of an essay, using evidence from one or more required foundational documents (6 points/12.5% of test)