

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

GI619

AP Inst.: U.S. Government and Politics

Summer 1997

approved
GC
3-25-97
(Fragna Michael)

I. Catalog Description

An institute designed to prepare high school U.S. Government and Politics teachers to teach AP U.S. Government and Politics in their high schools and to develop pedagogical methods and techniques for teaching specific skills and to provide the high school student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in college introductory U.S. government and politics courses. 3 hours credit.

II. Prerequisites

High School teacher of Social Studies

III. Purpose/Objectives

- A. To familiarize the participants with the aim and goals of AP Exam in American Government.
- B. To discuss and develop effective pedagogical techniques for teaching American Government to High School students.
- C. To expose the students to the depth of the subject matter to enable them to further the student skills necessary to pass the AP Examination.
- D. To practice evaluation of student writing to enable them the opportunity to foster successful writing skills.

IV. Expectations of Students

- A. Participate in class discussions/activities.
- B. Completion of required reading and writing assignments.
- C. Develop a curriculum guide of how AP level American Government will be established in their school curriculum.
- D. Practice group grading skills.
- E. Develop writing skills and instructions to be used by their students.

V. Course Content

- A. Discussion of successful high school AP programs. (1 day)

- B. Analysis of previous AP American Government examinations. (1 day)
- C. Discussion of pedagogical skills. (1 day)
- D. Discussion/Analysis of textbooks. (1 day)
- E. Discussion of grading criteria. (1 day)
- F. Discussion of writing essay exams. (1 day)
 - 1. Holistic Scoring

- G. Constitutional Principles (2 days)
 - 1. Popular Sovereignty
 - 2. Representative Government
 - 3. Limited Government
 - 4. Federalism
 - 5. Separation of Powers
 - 6. Sharing of Powers
 - 7. Checks and Balances
 - 8. Judicial Review

VI. Textbook/Course Material

- A. Perverill Squire, James Lindsey, Cary Covington, and Eric R. A. N. Smith, Dynamics of Democracy, Brown and Benchmark, 1995.
- B. Review of 8-10 college level textbooks to be determined in March when new books are reviewed.
- C. The College Board will provide materials including Advanced Placement course description: American Government. The AP Examination in American Government and its grading. A student guide to the AP American Government courses and examinations from previous years. AP American Government exams and sample student responses.

VII. Basis for Student Evaluation

Students will be graded based on the quality of their work. They will be expected to develop a portfolio which would include a curriculum for an AP American Government course. This would include a course outline, examination questions, student assignments, holistic evaluation, and textbook evaluation.