



Welcome to AP U.S. Government & Politics

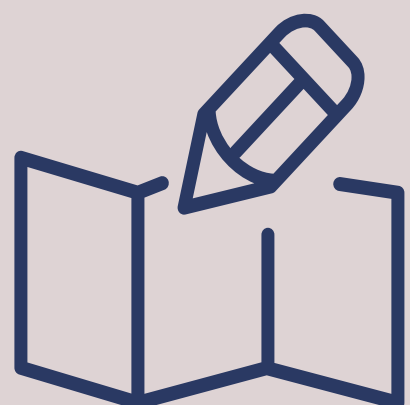
Ms. Rebecca Stelzner | 2025 - 2026



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Montgomery Blair High School - (301) 649-2800



Units of Study

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a college-level year-long course that not only seeks to prepare students for success on the AP Exam in May, but also provide students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in discussions and debates that are currently shaping American politics and society.

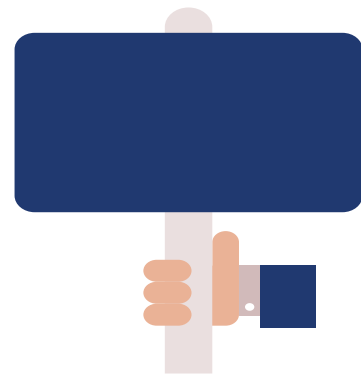
Unit 1



Foundations
of American
Democracy

15-22% of exam

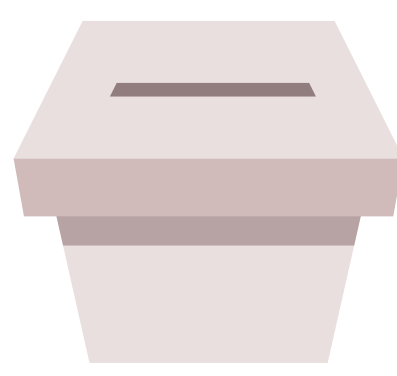
Unit 2



American
Political
Ideologies
and Beliefs

10-15% of exam

Unit 3



Political
Participation/
Linkage
Institutions

20-27% of exam

Unit 4



Interactions
Among the
Branches of
Government

25-36% of exam

Unit 5



Civil Rights
and Civil
Liberties

13-18% of exam

AP Test:
May 5,
2026

Class Expectations

- treat peers and the instructor with respect
- follow the school code of conduct, including the new cell phone policy!
- arrive to class on time
- come to class prepared to learn
- keep notes organized

STUDENT RESOURCES



Academic Support Time

When: Lunch (pd 5) on Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 11am
Where: Room 164



Zoom Classes/Code Purple Days

In the event of inclement weather, MCPS has the option of declaring a Code Purple emergency. When this occurs, classes will be held virtually via zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/89037989985?pwd=RjJvckFwaERUOURaaVhht2lvR2ZRZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 3798 9985
Passcode: stelzner



New Blair Hall Pass Policy

Students who need to use the restroom, or leave the classroom for another purpose should request a hall pass in StudentVue and wait for the pass to be approved by the teacher.

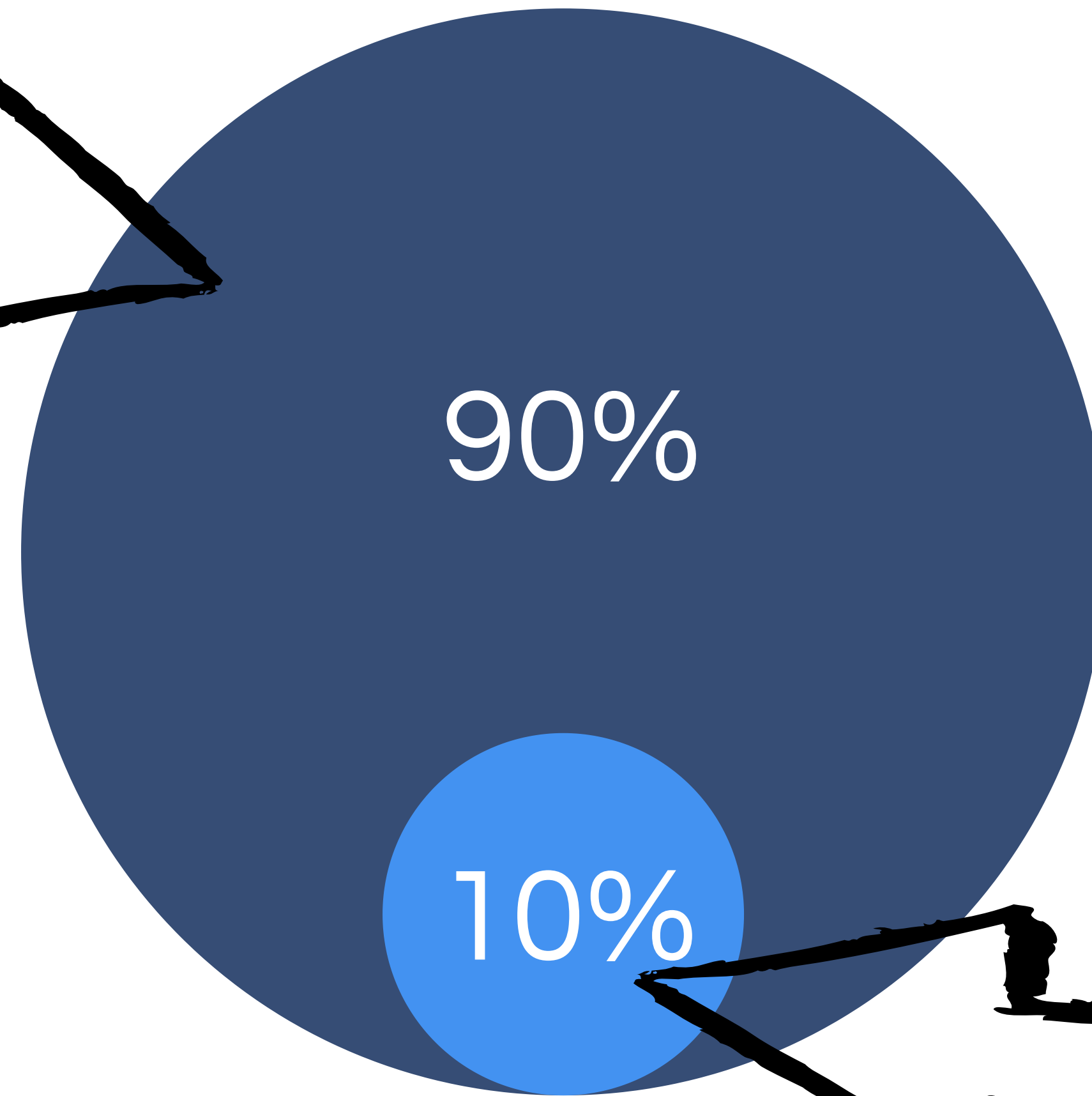


Grading Policy

At Montgomery Blair High School, we believe that the MCPS Grading and Reporting policy emphasizes teaching toward every student's mastery of learning goals, reteaching and reassessing when students do not demonstrate mastery of these goals, informing instructional decisions, and gathering data from assessments for teacher, team, PLC, and school reflection. For this reason, students must complete all assigned work promptly to help facilitate the instructional process.

All Task Assignments

Work graded for accuracy will account for 90% of each marking period grade. Teachers may not assign a grade lower than 50% to an All Task/Assessment unless a student does no work on that assignment, or if the teacher determines the student did not attempt to meet the basic requirements of the task/assessment.



Practice/Prep Assignments

Work assigned for completion (not graded for accuracy) will account for 10% of each marking period grade.



FAQ

Other classroom policies that will help guide student behavior and engagement this year.

Can I submit late work?

It is important to complete work on time to be ready for classroom activities and future learning. The due date is designed for you to receive feedback in a manner that will prepare you for larger assignments and class discussions. Work turned in after the deadline will earn a 0%, but will still receive feedback. Deadlines are assigned up to 10 days from the due date. All students with accommodations (50% or 100% extended time) will have due dates and deadlines reflective of their approved accommodations. These are communicated via CANVAS on the assignments, or on paper assignments.

Can I redo work if I don't like the grade?

Yes! Students will have opportunities to reassess all formative tasks and at least one summative task per quarter. The goal of reassessments is to support students in their ability to demonstrate mastery of course standards. Students should take advantage of academic support before reassessments. In order to reassess an assignment, students must have completed the assignment initially. All re-assessable tasks will be noted with an "(R)" at the beginning of the assignment name in CANVAS and Synergy. All reassessments must be completed within two weeks of the assignment being returned.

What should I do if I'm absent from class?

From the Blair student handbook, "Upon returning from an absence, students have three days to make-up work missed during a student's absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work they missed and to make arrangements for completion within the three days following their return to school. For long-term assignments assigned before an absence, presentations, etc. the teacher and student should work out appropriate times to make up the work. Students should check CANVAS to access any assignments that might have been assigned during the absence and should check in with their teacher to get papers and notes that were missed.

What happens if I'm caught cheating in this class?

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and/or the use of AI to complete all or portions of an assignment, is not acceptable in classrooms. The first instance will result in the student being allowed to redo a similar assignment WITH their teacher, or the department Resource Teacher during the student's lunch period. The second instance will result in a 0% and communication with the student and their family. Any additional instances will result in a 0% and a referral to administration. Students should refer to the Code of Conduct to review additional consequences that occur for violating systemwide rules regarding academic dishonesty.

What textbook will we be using this year?

We will use an open source college-level American government textbook created by professors at Rice University. American Government 4e will be provided to students electronically through MyMCPS Classroom. Each week, students will receive an assignment from this textbook to read as homework. This work will reinforce what we have learned in class and provide further study of concepts, vocabulary, and examples.