

## *Implementing District Standards*

### **Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics**

**COMPETENCY GOAL 3: The learner will analyze political parties, elections, interest groups, and mass media.**

#### **Objectives**

3.01 Trace the development and impact of political parties in the United States.

- (a) Functions
- (b) Organization
- (c) Ideological and demographic differences between the two major parties
- (d) Implications of the two-party system
- (e) Impact of third parties
- (f) Effects on the political process

\*Students are exposed to websites, articles, video clips, lectures, and activities that assist them in learning the history, functions, organization, ideological and demographic differences of the major two parties. Third parties are also essential for understanding the political process and the students are exposed to the history and impact of third parties.

3.02 Understand the operation and evaluate the role of elections in American politics.

- (a) Current electoral laws including campaign finance
- (b) Nomination process
- (c) Constitutional mandates
- (d) Workings and implications of the electoral college

\*Students look closely at the role of elections in American politics. In this 2012 election year, students were exposed to a high level of political discourse and were able to recognize/discern the differences between political parties (Democrats, Republicans, and third parties). Websites such as [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) assist students in understanding campaign finance and the party conventions allowed students to follow the nomination process. The [www.cspan.org](http://www.cspan.org) Electoral College Map display in the classroom along with class dialogue and activities aided students in comprehending the workings and implications of the electoral college.

3.03 Investigate the role and effects of interest groups and political action committees.

- (a) Range of interests represented
- (b) Activities and appeal of interest groups and lobbyists within certain demographics
- (c) Ability of interest groups to exert pressure on political institutions to influence policy
- (d) Unique characteristics and roles of Political Action Committees (PACs) in the political process

\*Students were instructed to monitor the sponsors of political advertisements to allow them to investigate the role and effects of interest groups and political action committees (placing special emphasis on *superpacs*). In addition, interest groups will be closely examined as a unit just before the political parties unit so students will be abreast of the influence of Political Action Committees (PACs) in the political process as they exert pressure on political institutions to influence policy.

3.04 Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political system.

- (a) Functions and structures of the media
- (b) Impact of the media on public opinion
- (c) Use of the media by political campaigns

\*As a class we closely followed approval ratings, daily poll results, and campaign activities of the candidates to comprehend and evaluate the role of the mass media in the political system. Students were instructed to monitor the media's role in politics and locate objectivity and/or bias in order to develop an even and balanced understanding of the political process.

### **EXAM PERCENTAGES/Framework**

- I. Constitutional Underpinnings of the US government 5-15%**
- II. Political Beliefs and Behaviors 10-20%**
- III. Political Parties, Interests Groups, and Mass Media 10-20%**
- IV. Institutions of National Government: Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy, & Courts 35-45%**
- V. Public Policy 5-15%**
- VI. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 5-15%**

<b>Competency Goal 3</b>	<b>The learner will examine the role and analyze the influence of political parties in the American political process.</b>
	<b>Objectives</b> <b>3.01</b> Explore the early development of political parties and their impact on political parties today. <b>3.02</b> Examine the two-party system. <b>3.03</b> Evaluate the creation of third parties in American politics and their effect on political outcomes. <b>3.04</b> Analyze the reasons for non-political participation.