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Over the course of the academic year, the course will examine the political history of the American founding, the constitutional and philosophical basis for the American system, the establishment and protection of civil rights and liberties, and, finally, the political culture that is unique to American politics. The course will then explore political parties and interest groups and the media, along with the impact that all three have upon the political process. Next, the course will study the institutions of government, i. Finally, the course will end by taking a look at how public policy is pursued and implemented within the political process, taking a deeper look at the nature of politics itself. Upon completion of the course, the student will be prepared to take the A. The latter two will be collected and graded randomly on a weekly basis. Successful Students The successful student will complete all reading and class assignments on time, allowing himself sufficient time to thoroughly do his work. The successful student will take good, careful notes in class, contribute to any class discussions, and ask any questions whenever the need should arise so to better understand the material being covered. The successful student will be adequately prepared for any assignments or exams throughout the week because he has put in the time and effort beforehand to know and understand the material. The successful student will work to improve his writing skills so to write well-written, logical and insightful essays for class. Goals Students successfully completing the course will: Possess a basic yet solid understanding of the American foundingâ€”its history, politics, and philosophy. Comfortably explain and discuss many of our political processes including elections, the legislative process, appointments, etcâ€”. Comfortably discuss current events relating to a broad range of issues. Be capable of linking the major questions of our age to the fundamental questions that consumed the founding fathers. Listen carefully, speak and write clearly, think deeply about some of the most important issues of our day and age. September â€” Chapter 1: Foundations of American Democracy; Chapter 2: Federalism October â€” Chapter 3: The Legislative Branch; Chapter 4: The Executive Branch; Chapter 5: The Bureaucracy November â€” Chapter 6: The Judicial Branch; Chapter 7: Individual Liberties December â€” Chapter 8: Due Process and Rights of the Accused; Chapter 9: Civil Rights January â€” Chapter Political Ideologies and Policy; Chapter Voting and Voter Behavior February â€” Chapter Political Parties; Chapter Campaigns and Elections March â€” Chapter Interest Groups; Chapter

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About the Author Dr. Paul Soifer is chair of the History Department at Yeshiva University High Schools of Los Angeles, where he teaches both AP U.S. History and AP U.S. Government.

Chapter 5 : AP U.S. Government

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AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States.