

BOOK LIST

AP[®] U.S. Government and Politics

Fall 2024 / Spring 2025

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN	Available on the Academy's Bookstore?
American Government: Power and Purpose	17 th	Ansolahehere, Stephen; Ginsberg, Benjamin; Lowi, Theodore; Shepsle, Kenneth A.	Ebook	Yes – Find it here.
			Paperback 978-1324039631 978-1324039532	
Born Again—With New Introduction and Epilogue	*2008	Colson, Chuck	Hardcover	Yes – Find it here.
			Paperback 978-1598562514 978-0800794590	
Presidential Greatness	2000	Landy, Marc & Milkis, Sidney	Hardcover	Yes – Find it here.
			Paperback 978-0700610051 978-0700611492	

Please note:

- > *Any edition of this title will work with the course.
- > *American Government: Power and Purpose* [is also available in an ebook edition.](#)
- > Books and materials requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors.
- > Book synopses and potential disclaimers can be found on the following page of this PDF.

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American Government: Power and Purpose by Ansolahehere, Ginsberg, Lowi, and Shepsle

SYNOPSIS: *American Government* analyzes American politics and government from five fundamental assumptions, the first being that all political behavior has purpose. Its four parts review American government through four related lenses: founding, institutions, governance, and politics.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** *American Government* follows the format of the AP® Exam, with its four parts corresponding to the five units that students will encounter on the AP® Exam. Its rigorous examination of American government and politics will prepare students to know and analyze complex political questions when taking the AP® exam or furthering their understanding of American government.

DISCLAIMER: The textbook is not written from a Christian viewpoint, but is generally respectful in its discussion of Christian participation in politics. Despite the authors' usual neutral approach to politically contentious issues, *American Government* portrays social issues with a slight liberal bias. Through discussions with the Master Teacher and Classroom Teachers, the class encourages students to read critically, evaluate the biases of their sources, and express their own positions respectfully.

Born Again by Charles Colson

SYNOPSIS: Chuck Colson's autobiography focuses on his participation in the Nixon administration and Watergate, cumulating with Colson's personal testimony to the power of the gospel to change lives. Colson explores a Christian's proper approach to politics and how faith transcends political division.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** *Born Again* discusses the crucial intersection of faith and politics. It challenges students to think about the assumptions and worldview that shape how individuals act in the political world.

Presidential Greatness by Landy and Milkis

SYNOPSIS: *Presidential Greatness* examines the administration of five great presidents and offers general principles of what defines a great president. Great presidents, according to Landy and Milkis, have the strength of character to respond to moments of crisis, redefining the office of the presidency, while still acting within their institutional bounds.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** *Presidential Greatness* is the best in-depth analysis of great presidents and the factors that made them great. It engages students in understanding the historical growth of presidential power and evaluates the intersection of presidential power with other governing institutions, parties, and people.