

a-g American Government

Course Descriptions:

This course should include the study, exploration, development, structure, function, and politics of American Government at the federal, state, and local levels. It is recommended that students, at minimum, cover one of the following topics in greater depth.

Prerequisite(s): U.S. History

Length of Course: One-half year required for graduation

Year in School Taken: 12

Course Objectives/Details:

Coursework will include a thorough understanding and inquiry into the following topics:

- Essential documents of American democracy: the Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, Constitutional Convention, and the Federalists Papers
- The development of the diverse and various political systems (compare and contrast)
- The roles and responsibilities of the different branches of U.S. government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial
- The rights and responsibilities (obligations) of democratic citizens
- The U.S. Court system: organization and jurisdiction of federal, state, and local courts
- The Amendments to the U.S. Constitution: landmark Supreme Court cases and decisions (changing role)
- The role of the media in shaping public opinion. What are the roles and responsibilities of a free press?
- Exploration of fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as implied and expressed in the U.S. Constitution
- The U.S. government's changing role in foreign policy (compare and contrast)
- The U.S. government's changing role in the U.S. economy (compare and contrast)
- Exploration of the Scope of Presidential power
- Explore and understand how U.S. public education is governed and financed, including the role of local school boards, state legislation, and financial policies
- The evolution of the civil rights in the U.S.
- The development and origins of U.S. political parties
- Research and analyze contemporary political issues
- Exploration of the Philosophy of natural rights and natural law

Methods for Evaluating Student Performance:

Evaluation of student performance is based on individual abilities, interests, and talents. Methods by which student progress is assessed will be through a variety and/or combination of methods. The methods available include but are not limited to the following:

- Monthly review of work by education specialist (credentialed teacher),
- Portfolios
- Parent facilitator and education specialist observation
- Student demonstrations,
- Student grades,
- Student work samples
- Written examination
- Research projects

Texts:

United States Government: Democracy in Action
Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2000
ISBN: 0028221486

American Government: Principles and Practices
Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 1996
ISBN: 0028238966

Civics: Responsibilities and Citizenship
Glencoe McGraw-Hill, 2000
ISBN: 0028219597

American Government: The Political Game, 1994
ISBN: 0097133877

American Government
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993
ISBN: 0395690943

Learning About Government
American Guidance Service, 1997
ISBN: 0785409610

United States Government American Guidance Service, 1997
ISBN: 0785408827

American Government and Politics Today
West Educational Publishing, 1997
ISBN: 0314204954

The American People
Scott Foresman, Addison Wesley, 1998
ISBN: 067398575X

Magruder's American Government
Prentice Hall - Social Studies, 1998
ISBN: 0134347560