

American Government

Course Syllabus



Supervising Teacher

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Course Description:

American Government 2 semesters

2 credits

Grade 12

Required for graduation. This course covers the major elements of American National Government beginning with a background of governments in general. It includes a survey of the specific functions of the 3 branches of the U.S. Government. Other sections deal with the various powers such as taxing and commerce, regulation of immigration and naturalization, civil rights, political parties, pressure groups, suffrage, nominations and elections. The final semester examines state and local government. This will include state constitutions, state finance, municipal government in action, and case studies involving cities of the future.

Top Pick Textbook Options:

<u>McGraw-Hill – Glencoe</u>	<u>Holt</u>	<u>Prentice Hall/Magruder</u>
<i>US Government: Democracy in Action</i>	<i>American Government</i>	<i>American Government</i>
<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government; Democracy in Action 2006 TE I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Student Edition is required for this option.</i> MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government; Democracy in Action 2006 SE I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Teacher's Edition is required for this option.</i> <p>Supplemental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government: Democracy in Action The Living Constitution TE 2006 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government: Democracy in Action Living Constitution SE 2006 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government: Democracy in Action Historical Documents and Speeches MCGRAW-HILL - GLENCOE United States Government: Democracy in Action Quizzes and Tests <p>Online Resources:</p> <p>http://glencoe.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0078600537/</p>	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HARCOURT - HOLT American Government TE 2003 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Student Edition is required for this option.</i> HARCOURT - HOLT American Government SE 2003 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Teacher's Edition is required for this option.</i> <p>Supplemental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HARCOURT - HOLT American Government Chapter Tests HARCOURT - HOLT American Government The Constitution: Past, Present & Future 2003 TE I-DEA TOP PICK HARCOURT - HOLT American Government The Constitution: Past, Present & Future 2003 SE I-DEA TOP PICK <p>Online Resources:</p> <p>http://go.hrw.com/hrw.nd/arbiter/pRedirect?project=hrwonline&siteId=695&pageId=6279</p>	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government TE 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Student Edition is required for this option</i> PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government SE 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK <i>The Teacher's Edition is required for this option.</i> <p>Supplemental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government Constitution Study Guide 2007 Edition I-DEA TOP PICK PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government Constitution Study Guide TE I-DEA TOP PICK PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government Test Prep Workbook PEARSON - PRENTICE HALL Magruder's American Government Test Prep Workbook Answer Key TE <p>Online Resources:</p> <p>http://www.phschool.com/webcodes10/index.cfm?wcprefix=mgk&wcsuffix=1000&area=view</p>

Recommended Supplemental Materials or Software:

This course has no required extra software. However, there are Learn360 videos that are great supplementary resources. Also, PLATO has a number of modules in American Government that would be helpful as well. See your contact teacher for more information about how to access these resources.

Supplies or Equipment:

No additional supplies or equipment is needed.

End of Course Assessment:

This course has 4 anchor assignments for each semester (8 total). These are the required assessment piece for this course.

Course Evaluation:

60% of the grade for this course will be determined by the parent. The other 40% will come from the grading of the anchor assignments.

Pacing Guide

The topics and standards for this course have been divided between the two semesters.

Semester 1 (Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Basic Principles of Government	Mass Media
The Constitution	Political Parties
Federalism	Voter History and Behavior
Congress (Legislative)	Interest Groups
The President (Executive)	Civil Liberties/Civil Rights
The Judiciary (Judicial)	Economic Policy
Federal Bureaucracy	Foreign Policy
Public Opinion	Idaho State and Local Government

In order to fulfill this pacing requirement, the recommended texts have been broken down by chapter. Covering the chapters in the order listed will insure that all topics on the final exam will be covered during the appropriate semester.

McGraw-Hill – Glencoe “US Government: Democracy in Action”

Semester 1 (Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-2	Chapter 19
Chapter 3	Chapter 16
Chapter 4	Chapter 17
Chapter 5-7	Chapter 18
Chapter 8-9	Chapter 13-15
Chapter 11-12	Chapter 20; 26
Chapter 10	Chapter 22; 25
Chapter 18	Chapter 23-24

Holt “American Government”

Semester 1 (Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-2	Chapter 16
Chapter 3	Chapter 18
Chapter 4	(needs supplementary instruction)
Chapter 5-6	Chapter 17
Chapter 7-8; 19	Chapter 13-15
Chapter 11-12	Chapter 9
Chapter 4	Chapter 10; 22-23
Chapter 16	Chapter 20-21

Prentice Hall/Magruder’s “American Government”

Semester 1 (Fall)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Chapter 1-2	Chapter 8
Chapter 3	Chapter 5
Chapter 4	Chapter 6
Chapter 10-12	Chapter 9
Chapter 13-14	Chapter 19-21
Chapter 18	Chapter 23
Chapter 15	Chapter 22
Chapter 8	Chapter 24-25

Additional Information from the Instructor:

The “Voter History and Behavior” section that is missing in the Holt textbook can be supplemented by having students research how age, race, religion, money, education, and gender affect voter patterns. Students should understand that these are only patterns and do not represent the preferences of all voters in that population. Students should also understand how each group affects the likelihood of the person voting.

I-DEA Student Honor Code:

With any form of valid proof of dishonesty with regard to student work or testing, the instructor may elect from a range of actions. Academic dishonesty could lead to a zero grade for the assignment or even failure for the entire course following consultation between the instructor, Secondary Supervisor, and Director.

All students must adhere to the **Honor Code**:

“On my honor, I will maintain the highest possible standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. This means I will not lie, cheat or steal, and as a member of this academic community, I am committed to creating an environment of respect and mutual trust.”

[American Government Idaho Content Standards](#)

http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content_standards/ss2010/9th%20-%2012th%20American%20Government.pdf