

Grade 12 American Government Curriculum Overview

Description (including primary objectives and outcomes):

This course will examine the major aspects of the theory behind the structure and operation of our government. This course will teach the practical workings of the American political system, examine current political issues, and prepare students to be educated and responsible citizens.

Learning Experiences:

Over the course of the year, students will participate in regular discussion and debate on a variety of current political issues, develop a campaign manager project, participate in web quests and research assignments to learn about the foundation of our national government and the structure and function of our national, state, and local governments, follow local and/or national elections, and begin to develop a political identity. Weekly current event assignments will help them stay apprised of current political issues and develop the skills necessary to become educated voters.

Content Outline:

- I. Foundations of Government and The Living Constitution
- II. The Impact of The Bill of Rights on our Modern Democracy
- III. The Legislative Branch
- IV. The Executive Branch
- V. The Judicial Branch
- VI. The Political Process and Elections
- VII. Economics and the Federal Budget
- VIII. Influencing the Federal Government
- IX. State and Local Governments
- X. The Role of the Individual in our Modern Democracy

Resources Used:

We the People The Center for Learning 2008, Media coverage/debates from local, state, and national elections, handouts/articles from a variety of sources including NYT, The Week, Boston Globe, Boston Herald, and The Norwood Bulletin.

As of 3/15/2012