



Name of School:

Name of Course: American Government

Instructor Information

Name:

E-mail address:

School phone number:

Web page address:

Best times to be reached:

Course Description

This course is a study of the workings and functions of the American political system. Topics include the Constitution, the three branches of government, and the development of democracy in the United States. Additional units are included on Iowa Government – state and local.

District Standards and Power Benchmarks

Social Studies Standard:

Students will be able to understand the development of civic responsibility and the influence of history, geography, government, human behavior, and economics on individual and societies.

Benchmarks:

- Students will be able to identify and analyze various governments, emphasizing the role of the citizen in a participatory government.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of structure, function, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States government under our system of federalism
- Students will evaluate and understand the importance and influence of the United States Constitution on American Government
- Students will explain the origins and influences of our democratic republican form of government.
- Students will utilize primary and secondary sources to address current issues in American society and explore responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society.

Course Information

American Government is a one term class.

.5 units (credits) will be earned for this class

This class meets the group IV/American Government - Social Studies requirement for graduation.

Course Outline/Calendar

Weeks 1 - 3	Foundations of American Government & Citizenship: Magruder's Chapters 1, 2, 5; We the People Units 1, 6
Weeks 4 - 6	Constitution, Federalism & Iowa Government: Magruder's Chapters. 3, 4, 19, 20, 21; We the People Units 2, 3, 4, 5 Iowa Government and Politics
Weeks 7 - 9	Branches of Government Magruder's Chapters. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 We the People Units 3, 4, 5

Text/Other Required Materials/Resources

McClenaghan, William. "Magruder's American Government". Prentice Hall. Needham, MA. :2005.

Racheter, Donald. "Iowa Government and Politics" Public Interest Institute. Mt. Pleasant IA.:2004

Smith, Duane.,ed "We the People The Citizen and the Constitution". Center for Civic Education. Calabasas, CA. : 1988.

Newspapers or other sources of current events

Notebook and pen or pencil

Instructional Procedures & Support

Students are expected to keep a notebook. Classroom activities will include (but not limited to), guided and individual reading, text assignments, large and small group discussions, guided lectures, examining primary source materials, and performance tasks.

Classroom Management Procedures

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Assessment Plan

Students will be graded on the following: homework, class work, quizzes, tests, performance tasks, and an end of term assessment.

Grading System

A 90% - 100%
B 80% - 89%
C 70% - 79%
D 60% - 69%
F 0-59%