

United States Government Course Syllabus

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Textbook

United States Government: Democracy in Action
Publisher: Glencoe/McGraw Hill
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Course Description

United States Government is a semester long study of American political traditions and systems. The Institutions (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches) are studied at length, as well as Constitutional theory and political philosophy. Students will gain an understanding of past and present political issues, as well as beliefs and behaviors that contribute to the American political climate. In addition, students will discuss the civil liberties of citizens of the United States.

Objectives

Understand the basic principles of United States government
Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States, and other nations.
Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.
Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States, and other nations.
Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues.
Understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to come to class prepared every day. Students should have their textbook, a spiral notebook, a class folder, and a writing utensil. Class participation is essential for student learning, and it is important that you are in class, following classroom rules and procedures, and prepared to participate. If you are absent, distributed materials and notes can be found in the appropriate space on my desk or on my school blog. Homework, tests, and projects will be given periodically throughout the semester, and each student is expected to complete all assignments on time and with great effort.

Units and Topics

American Political Philosophy
The Legislative Branch
The Executive Branch
The Judicial Branch
Participation and Elections
State and Local Government
Civil Liberties
Current Issues/Debates

Grades

Grades will follow the School District's percent system and will be calculated by dividing points earned by total points for each quarter, with each quarter counting as forty percent of the total and the final exam counting as twenty percent of the total.

100- 98.5% A+
98-94.5% A
94-92.5% A-
92-90.5% B+
90-86.5 % B
86-84.5% B-

84-82.5% C+
82-78.5% C
78-76.5% C-
76-74.5-% D+
74-70.5% D
70-68.5% D
Below 68% F