

U.S. GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY
GRADE 12
(1 Semester - Graduation Requirement)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This is a survey course of the workings and realities of the United States Government designed to provide students with a general knowledge of the constitutional structure of the United States national government; to make students aware of some of the significant political and social issues which are facing the U.S. and its citizens; and to engage students in the possibilities for political participation in a democratic form of government. Tests and small group seminar discussions will constitute the majority of a student's grade. Teacher-led instruction is the structure of this level course. In addition to successful completion of the regular course material, a passing grade on the Illinois Constitution exam is required for graduation.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

- UNIT I - An Introduction to Government and Principles of the Constitution
- UNIT II - Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- UNIT III - Participating in Government
- UNIT IV - The Legislative Branch of the National Government
- UNIT V - The Executive Branch of the National Government
- UNIT VI - The Judicial Branch of the National Government

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

1. Provide students with a general knowledge of the constitutional structure of the United States national government. (16A, 18B)
2. Familiarize students with their constitutional rights as citizens and the limits and responsibilities of these rights in our society. (14C, 14D, 16A)
3. Acquaint students with some of the significant political and social issues facing the U.S. and its citizens. (14F, 16A)
4. Engage students in the possibilities for political participation in a democratic form of government. (15C, 14D, 16A)
5. Develop an understanding of the different branches of the national government; focusing on the constitutional powers and modern interaction of the three branches. (14A, 16A)
Familiarize students with a general knowledge of the Illinois Constitution and Illinois State government. (16A, 14F)
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MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

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| 1. | Successfully complete assigned readings from both the textbook and outside sources. |
| 2. | Participate in small group seminars on issues such as rights, the President, and interest groups as they relate to government. |
| 3. | Earn a passing grade on the Illinois Constitution Exam. |
| 4. | Interactive Internet assignments. |
| 5. | Participate in class discussions on current events as they pertain to government. |

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

Kelman, Steven. <i>American Government</i> . Evanston, IL: Holt, 1999	(adopted 2000)
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(01/21/03)
(04/28/00)