

SPECIAL EDUCATION U.S. GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY  
GRADE 12  
(1 Semester)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course covers units similar to those covered in the U.S. Government course taught by the Social Studies Department. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to help them carry out their responsibilities and protect their rights as citizens of a free society. Throughout the course, students will complete textbook readings, take notes as a class (as well as individually), participate in discussions, and view multi-media presentations.

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

- UNIT I - Government and Citizenship
- UNIT II - The Constitution and Bill of Rights
- UNIT III - Political Parties and Elections
- UNIT IV - The Legislative Branch
- UNIT V - The Executive Branch
- UNIT VI - The Judicial Branch
- UNIT VII - State and Local Government
- UNIT VIII - Law and the Individual
- UNIT IX - The United States and the World

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

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| 1. | Learn basic knowledge regarding the role of citizens in society, including the duties and responsibilities necessary in a democratic society. (14C)                                     |
| 2. | Understand the underlying concepts of the U.S. Constitution and the reasons the Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution and later expanded to include other amendments. (14A) |
| 3. | Determine their individual political ideologies based on an understanding of the philosophies of the political parties. (14F, 16B)  |
| 4. | Describe the election process and their role in this process. (14C, 14D)  |
| 5. | For each branch of government, describe the various positions and responsibilities, as well as how each branch checks and balances the other branches. (14A, 14B)                       |

6.	Compare the Illinois Constitution and government with the U.S. Constitution and government. (14B)
7.	Describe how the world is becoming more of a global community and the role the U.S. may play in this community. (14E)
8.	Identify the governmental systems of Great Britain, Russia, Japan, and Mexico and how they compare with that of the United States. (14B)

MAJOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO ACHIEVE OUTCOMES:

1.	Pass the U.S. and Illinois Constitution tests.
2.	Participate in current events activities.
3.	Complete assigned readings, take notes, participate in group discussions, and complete assigned work.
4.	Attend a field trip to the DuPage County Courthouse.
5.	Provide students with an opportunity to register to vote if 18 years old (or older).
6.	Complete an election-related project using Microsoft <i>PowerPoint</i> , <i>Word</i> , and/or <i>Publisher</i> .

ADOPTED TEXT OR PRINCIPAL MATERIALS USED:

Bernstein, Vivian. <i>American Government: Freedom, Rights, Responsibilities</i> . Steck-Vaughn Company, 1992. (adopted 1994)
Davis, James E. and Fernlund, Phyllis. <i>Civics: Participating in Government</i> . Prentice-Hall, Inc., 2003. (adopted 2003)
Petlinski, James, ed. <i>American Government (Pacemaker Series)</i> . Globe Fearon, 2001. (adopted 2001)

(01/10/04)  
(05/31/00)