

FAME Public Charter School
Course Description
U.S. Government

Course Description:

This course offers a study of the American government system. Studies include: the origins and development of the U.S. government, an overview of the constitution and other relevant historical documents, the law making process, fiscal policy, and the rights of citizenship. Pre-requisite: U.S. History or concurrent. This course is typically taken in the 11th or 12th grade year. This is a one-semester course. 5 credits will be awarded with a passing grade.

Learning Objectives:

Students will have an understanding of the following:

- * Basic Types and Theories of Government
- * The Beginnings of the American Government
- * The Purposes and Basis of the Constitution
- * Individual Rights
- * The Political System
- * Voting and Elections
- * Public Opinion and Powers of Congress
- * The Law Making Process
- * Congress and Fiscal Policy

Key Assignments:

1) Students will select and research a major Supreme Court decision and write a report that describes both sides of the issue, the outcome of the ruling, and the effects of the ruling on subsequent court cases and why the ruling was important to society. The report should be 3-5 pages in length.

2) Students will complete supplemental reading as assigned by the teacher.

- All written assignments are to be typed or legibly written in ink.
- Each student will do a first draft followed by consultation and grading by the teacher.
- The student will then edit the paper and submit a second draft. The second draft may be the final submission or it may need additional editing. This process is to continue until the student and teacher are satisfied that the paper is worthy of submission for evaluation.
- The final paper, together with all drafts, will be submitted and the final essay will be graded. The teacher or a colleague of the teacher will complete the assessment. School approved guidelines for grading, commonly called rubrics, will be followed by the teachers in the grading of student writing assignments.
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Curriculum:

Text: Glencoe, U.S. Government, Democracy in Action

Text: Prentice-Hall, Magruder's American Government, 2002

North Dakota Independent Study, Magruder's American Gov't, HSS1031P

Oak Meadow, U.S. Government, Course #12045

University-Nebraska-Lincoln, American Government: Theories, Policies, Politics,
SSTH 037

Laurel Springs, Government

BYU, American Gov't, GOVT 41

Methods of Assessment:

A variety of assessment tools may be used. Written work, as described above, will be corrected in collaboration between the student, teacher, and parent. Final papers and chapter tests will be graded by the teachers. Assessment tools include but are not limited to:

- Periodic review of work by the independent study teacher
- Portfolios
- Parent facilitator observation
- Graded assignments
- Written examinations
- Research projects
- Oral presentation

Course Grading Scale:

Weekly Chapter Assignments: 40%

Chapter Review Tests: 40%

Papers: 20%

Updated 10/6/06