

**Course Title:** U.S. Government

**Board Approval Date:** January 7, 2020

**Credit / Hours:** 1.0

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to understand the function and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. The course is further intended to provide students with an understanding of why it is important to become active citizens in their homes, schools, communities, and nation. Students will examine current domestic and foreign policy issues. They will also focus on Constitutional underpinnings for both the United States and Pennsylvania, the civic rights and responsibilities of individuals, the roles of political parties, interest groups and media, civic and human rights, and a comparison with other governments. Students will also focus on the three branches of government in their roles in policy making at both the national and state level. State and local government structures will also be examined, with an emphasis on Pennsylvania government and local government structures.

**Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:**

Whole Group Discussion	Text Dependent Analysis
Simulations	Conferencing
Quizzes	Presentations
Tests	Schoology
Writing Assignments	Issue Research
Projects	Issue Advocacy

**Instructional Resources:**

*MacGruder's American Government* by William A. McClenaghan  
*Political Typology Quiz* Pew Research Center  
*Quiz* from isidewith.com  
*Win the White House* iCivics.com  
*We the People* Constitution Handbook  
iPads (Schoology, Nearpod, Google Drive Applications, Notability)  
Online news sources (variety, based on current events)





## Unit 2: Political Behavior

5.1.12.F. Evaluate the role of nationalism in uniting and dividing citizens.

5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.2.12.D. Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.

5.3.12.D. Evaluate the roles of political parties, interest groups, and mass media in politics and public policy.

5.3.12.E. Evaluate the fairness and effectiveness of the United States electoral processes, including the electoral college.

5.3.12.G. Evaluate the impact of interest groups in developing public policy.

5.3.12.H. Evaluate the role of mass media in setting the public agenda and influencing political life.

5.4.12.D. Evaluate the role of mass media in world politics.

Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media.

- Political parties and elections
- Functions & Organization
- Development
- Effects on the political process
- Electoral laws and systems
- Interest groups, including political action committees (PACs)
- Interests represented
- Effects of interest groups on political process
- Characteristics and roles of PACs in the political process
- Functions and structures of the news media
- Media impacts on politics

Political Beliefs and Behaviors.

- Beliefs that citizens hold about their government and its leaders
- Processes by which citizens learn about politics
- The nature, sources, and consequences of public opinion
- The ways in which citizens vote and otherwise participate in political life
- Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

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5.4.12.D. Evaluate the role of mass media in world politics.

### Unit 3: Legislative Branch

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.B. Compare and contrast policymaking in various contemporary world governments.

#### Congress

- Bicameral National Legislature
- The House of Representatives
- The Senate
- The Members of Congress

#### Powers of Congress

- Expressed power of money and commerce
- Other Expressed Powers
- Implied Powers
- Non-legislative Powers

#### Congress in Action

- Congressional Organization
- Committees
- How a bill becomes a law

5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.

5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.

5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.

5.3.12.B. Compare and contrast policymaking in various contemporary world governments.

**Unit 4: Executive Branch**

<p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.C. Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.</p> <p>5.3.12.I. Evaluate tax policies of various states and countries.</p> <p>5.3.12.J. Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.4.12.A. Examine foreign policy perspectives, including realism, idealism, and liberalism.</p> <p>5.4.12.B. Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).</p> <p>5.4.12.C. Evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.</p> <p>5.4.12.E. Compare and contrast the politics of various interest groups and evaluate their impact on foreign policy.</p>	<p>The Presidency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● President' job description</li> <li>● Presidential Succession</li> <li>● Electing the President</li> </ul> <p>Presidential Power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growth</li> <li>● Executive Powers</li> <li>● Legislative Powers</li> <li>● Judicial Powers</li> <li>● Diplomatic Powers</li> <li>● Military Powers</li> </ul> <p>The Bureaucracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EOP</li> <li>● Cabinet</li> <li>● Independent Agencies</li> </ul> <p>Government Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Taxes</li> <li>● Public Debt</li> <li>● Budget</li> <li>● Fiscal and Monetary Policy</li> </ul> <p>Foreign Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diplomacy</li> <li>● National Security</li> <li>● Foreign Aid and Alliances</li> </ul>	<p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.C. Evaluate how government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.</p> <p>5.3.12.I. Evaluate tax policies of various states and countries.</p> <p>5.3.12.J. Evaluate critical issues in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.4.12.A. Examine foreign policy perspectives, including realism, idealism, and liberalism.</p> <p>5.4.12.B. Evaluate the effectiveness of foreign policy tools in various current issues confronting the United States (e.g., diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, treaties).</p> <p>5.4.12.C. Evaluate the effectiveness of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.</p> <p>5.4.12.E. Compare and contrast the politics of various interest groups and evaluate their impact on foreign policy.</p>
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<b>Unit 5: Judicial Branch</b>		
<p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.F. Analyze landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its Amendments.</p>	<p>Federal Court System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Judiciary</li> <li>● Inferior Courts</li> <li>● Supreme Courts</li> <li>● Special Courts</li> </ul> <p>Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The development of civil liberties and civil rights by judicial interpretation</li> <li>● Knowledge of substantive rights and liberties</li> <li>● The impact of the Fourteenth Amendment on the constitutional development of rights and liberties</li> </ul>	<p>5.2.12.A. Evaluate an individual's civil rights, responsibilities and obligations in various contemporary governments.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p> <p>5.2.12.C. Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government.</p> <p>5.3.12.A. Analyze the changes in power and authority among the three branches of government over time.</p> <p>5.3.12.F. Analyze landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its Amendments.</p>
<b>Unit 6: State and Local Government</b>		
<p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p>	<p>State and Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Governing the States</li> <li>● State Institutions</li> <li>● Constitutional Federalism in the States</li> <li>● Local Government</li> <li>● Structure and function</li> <li>● Financing local government</li> </ul>	<p>5.1.12.E. Analyze and assess the rights of people as written in the PA Constitution and the US Constitution.</p> <p>5.2.12.B. Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts.</p>

## Pacing Guide

Course:

<b>Course Unit</b>	<b>Length of Instruction</b>
Unit 1: Foundation of American Government	15-20 classes
Unit 2: Political Behavior	15-20 classes
Unit 3: Legislative Branch	10-15 classes
Unit 4: Executive Branch	15-20 classes
Unit 5: Judicial Branch	15-20 classes
Unit 6: State and Local Government	<u>5-10 classes</u>
	90 classes