



Reseda High School Law and Public Service Magnet Honors American Government

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Welcome to Honors American Government and to what I hope will be the beginning of a wonderful culmination of your high school career. Below you will find the requirements and course description. This class is a survey course designed to look at the government as a whole and then each part specific.

Government is a semester course designed for students who plan on attending college/university after high school. This course will provide the skills necessary to successfully analyze political issues and understand why the government runs as it does, as well as give them the skill set required for success in college.

Course Description:

Honors American Government will cover the foundations of our governmental system to the intricacies of each branch to the individual responsibilities and guarantee of the citizen. There will also be an interwoven law enforcement theme with special emphasis on the development of laws, law enforcement, police departments and their founding. Below you will find all of the essential information in regards to the grading and assignment policy, attendance policy, materials needed and unit information.

Course Outline:

Listed Below you will find the themes that we will continuously examine throughout the course. They will help to bring continuity to the course and help make relative connections for the students.

1. Impact of interaction among and within major societies.
2. Impact of technology, economics, demography on people and the environment.
3. Systems of social structure and gender structures.
4. Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments.
5. Changes in functions and structures of state and in attitude toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state.
6. Law enforcement around the world and the reasons that they exist.

Unit Outline:

- I. Foundations of Democracy (C.S.S. 12.1.1,3,4,6; 12.2.1)
 - i. Principals of Government
 1. Government and the State

- 2. Forms of Government
 - 3. Basic Concepts of Democracy
 - ii. Origins of American Government
 - 1. The Political Beginning
 - 2. The Coming of Independence
 - a. The Declaration of Independence
 - 3. The Critical Period
 - 4. Creating the Constitution
 - 5. Ratifying the Constitution
 - iii. The Constitution
 - 1. The Six Basic Principles
 - 2. Formal Amendment
 - 3. Constitutional Change by Other Means
 - iv. Federalism
 - 1. Federalism: The Division of Power
 - 2. The National Government and the 50 States
 - 3. Interstate Relations
 - a. *ATF and the FBI*
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- II. The Judicial Branch (C.S.S. 12.2.1; 12.4.5,6; 12.5.1,3,4)
 - i. The Federal Court System
 - 1. The National Judiciary
 - 2. The Supreme Courts
 - ii. Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms
 - 1. The Unalienable Rights
 - 2. Freedom of Religion
 - 3. Freedom of Speech and Press
 - 4. Freedom of Assembly and Petition
 - a. *The Democratic Convention of 1968 - Chicago*
 - iii. Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights
 - 1. Due Process of Law
 - a. *Miranda v. Arizona*
 - 2. Freedom of Security of the Person
 - 3. Rights of the Accused
 - 4. Punishment
 - a. *Juvenile v. Adult Crime and Punishment*
 - b. *3 Strikes Laws*
 - iv. Civil Rights: Equal Justice Under Law
 - 1. Diversity and Discrimination in American Society
 - 2. Equality Before the Law
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- III. The Legislative Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.1,2,3; 12.7.3,4)
 - i. Congress
 - 1. The National Legislature
 - 2. The House of Representatives
 - 3. The Senate
 - 4. The Members of Congress
 - ii. Powers of Congress
 - 1. The Scope of Congressional Powers
 - 2. Expressed Powers
 - a. *Border Patrol*
 - b. *ATF*
 - c. *FBI*
 - 3. The Implied Powers

4. The Nonlegislative Power
- iii. Congress in Action
 1. How A Bill Becomes a Law: The House
 2. The Bill in the Senate

- IV. The Executive Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.4; 12.7.2)
 - i. The Presidency
 1. The President's Job Description
 2. Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency
 3. Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan
 4. The Election
 - ii. The Presidency in Action
 1. The Growth of Presidential Powers
 2. The President's Executive Powers
 3. Military Powers
 4. Legislative and Judicial Powers
 - iii. Financing Government
 1. Taxes
 2. Nontax Revenues and Borrowing
 3. Spending and the Budget
 - iv. Foreign Policy and National Defense
 1. Foreign Affairs and National Policy
 - a. *Drug Trafficking*
 - b. *Child/Human Trafficking*
 2. Other Foreign and Defense Agencies
 - a. *CIA*
 - b. *NSA*
 3. American Foreign Policy Overview
 4. Foreign Aid and Defense Alliances

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be determined by points received on homework, quizzes, tests, projects and writing assignments. You will have daily homework that will range from reading and note taking to outlining and vocabulary. This is essential to ensure that you keep up with the class and that material is covered in a timely fashion. Quizzes will be administered randomly, testing whether a student has done their homework or whether they have paid attention in class that day. There will be a test given at the end of every unit, which translates into eight exams. Because these are unit exams they will carry a higher number of points. There will be a writing assignment issued every 5 weeks, giving each student time to develop their thesis and master their writing skills. In addition to these individual assignments, there will, on occasion, be a group project. Grades will be given on a percentage scale as follows:

A 100 – 90%	D 69 – 60%
B 89 – 80%	F 59% - and lower
C 79 – 70%	

Work Habit grades will be given based on assignments; an E will be given to a student with zero missing assignments in a grading period, an S will be given to a student with one to

three missing assignments in a grading period, and a U will be given to any student with more than three missing assignments in a given grading period.

Late Work: You may only turn in late work for a current grading period. Quizzes and tests must be made up within a week of your absence. You will have to take the missed quiz at nutrition on Wednesday and missed tests on Friday at lunch. Keep in mind that if you miss a test, you will only have a fourth of the time to make it up.

Attendance Policy:

You are required to follow the attendance policy of the school. Your attendance will have a direct connection to your semester grade. You will receive participation points that are determined on whether you are in class or not. If you are not in class you cannot participate. 2 points will be given per class period and 1 point will be given if you are tardy to class. If you fail to show up to class, with the exception being a school-approved activity, you will not receive points for the day. In order to be successful, you must attend class on a regular basis.

Reseda High School ESLRS

In my class, students do much of their work in cooperative learning groups. I believe this type of activity helps students to learn how science is really done helps students achieve the Reseda High School ESLRS:

- I. Effective Communicators
- II. Critical Thinkers
- III. Self-Directed Learners
- IV. Responsible Citizens
- V. Healthy Individuals