**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** American Government

**Course Number:** 00117

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** American Government is designed to provide students the background they need to participate meaningfully in our democratic system. Student will examine the workings of all three levels of American Government – federal, state, and local – and how citizens get involved at each level. Units to studied include the basic foundations of government (including the U.S. Constitution), choosing government leaders, the separation of powers in government, and intergovernmental relations. Part of this course is to help students become active participants in our democratic system and how government will affect them the rest of their lives. A variety of media and activities will be used to achieve course objectives.

**Suggested Grade Level**: Grade 12

**Length of Course:** One Semester

**Units of Credit:** .5

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:**

CSPG 59 Social Studies

CSPG 58 Citizenship Education

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Staffing%20Guidelines/Pages/default.aspx)

**Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department:** Yes No

**WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Course Level:** Academic

**Mark Types:** Check all that apply.

F – Final Average MP – Marking Period EXM – Final Exam

**GPA Type**:  GPAEL-GPA Elementary  GPAML-GPA for Middle Level  NHS-National Honor Society

UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average  GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

**State Course Code**: 04160

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](https://nces.ed.gov/forum/sced.asp), download the Excel file for *SCED*, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and choose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:**

**Title:**  United States Government

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**ISBN #:**  Textbook 9780544742680/Digital 9780358426417

**Copyright Date:** 2018

**WCSD Board Approval Date:** 04/12/2021

**Supplemental Materials:** DBQ Project Materials; Choices Program; Citizenship Portfolio -Virtual Academy; Online Resources; I-Civics

**Curriculum Document**

**WCSD Board Approval:**

**Date Finalized:** 5/23/2022

**Date Approved:**  6/13/2022

**Implementation Year:** 2022/2023

**SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT, AND CONCEPTS**

**Marking Period 1**

* Introduction to American Government
* Political Parties
* The Legislative Branch
* The President and the Executive Branch

**Marking Period 2**

* The Judicial Branch
* Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
* State and Local Government

**Marking Period 3**

IF TAUGHT 2ND SEMESTER: See Marking Period 1

**Marking Period 4**

IF TAUGHT 2ND SEMESTER: See Marking Period 2

**Standards/Eligible Content and Skills**

| **Performance Indicator** | **PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content** | **Marking Period Taught** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Examine government and the powers every government holds. | C.1.1.1.3  C.1.1.2.2  C.1.2.1.1  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.7 | MP1  MP3 |
| List the characteristics of the state and consider theories on the origin of the state. | C.1.2.1.1  C.1.2.2.3  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.4 | MP1  MP3 |
| Debate the purpose of American Government. | C.1.2.2.3  RH.11-12.2-4,9  WHST.11-12.1,4,6-10 | MP1  MP3 |
| Illustrate the three ways government is classified. | C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4,7  WHST.11-12.7,9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Compare and contrast different forms of governments. | C.1.2.1.1  C.1.2.1.2  C.1.2.1.3  C.2.3.1.3  RH.11-12.2,4 | MP1  MP3 |
| Identify the foundations of democracy. | C.1.2.2.3  C.2.3.2.1  C.2.3.2.3  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.7 | MP1  MP3 |
| Discuss the responsibilities and duties of citizenship. | C.1.2.1.3  C.2.1.1.1  C.2.1.1.2  C.2.1.1.3  C.2.1.2.1  RH.11-12.1-4 | MP1  MP3 |
| Analyze the influence of key foundational government documents such as the Magna Carta, Petition of Right and English Bill of Rights on American ideas about government and freedom. | C.1.2.2.1  C.2.3.1.2  RH.11-12.1-10  WHST.11-12.8-10 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain and identify key historical events in the founding of our country such as the First and Second Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitutional Convention. | C.1.2.2.1  C.2.3.1.2  RH.11-12.1-4,7  WHST.11-12.2,9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Compare and contrast the positions of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists. | C.2.3.1.3  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Illustrate the history of political parties in the United States. | C.2.2.1.1  C.2.2.2.2  C.2.2.2.3  RH.11-12.2,4,7  WHST.11-12.9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Compare and contrast the five main functions of political parties by categorizing examples of political actions under each function. | C.2.2.1.1  C.2.2.1.2  C.2.2.2.1  C.2.2.2.2  C.2.2.2.3  C.2.2.2.4  C.2.4.3.1  C.2.4.3.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain the importance of minor parties. | C.2.2.2.3  C.2.2.2.5  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP1  MP3 |
| Describe and analyze the role and importance of political party organization at the local, state, and national levels. | C.2.2.1.1  C.2.2.1.2  C.2.2.2.2  C.2.2.2.5  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain various forms of political participation. | C.2.1.1.1  C.2.1.1.2  C.2.2.1.1  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2,7 | MP1  MP3 |
| Describe the rules governing political campaigns. | C.2.2.2.1  C.2.2.2.2  C.2.2.2.3  C.2.2.2.4  C.2.2.2.5  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.7 | MP1  MP3 |
| Describe the purpose and role of the Electoral College in our constitutional system. | C.1.3.2.2  C.1.3.2.3  RH.11-12.2,4,7  WHST.11-12.7,9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Define expressed powers of Congress. | C.1.1.1.1  C.1.1.1.2  C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP1  MP3 |
| Illustrate the process of how a bill becomes a law. | C.1.1.1.2  C.1.3.1.3  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Describe the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate, the functions of each chamber, and how Congress operates within a system of checks and balances. | C.1.1.2.1  C.1.3.1.2  C.1.4.1.1  C.2.4.2.1  C.2.4.2.2  RH.11-12.1-5,7  WHST.11-12.2,7,9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain how constituency, partisanship, and divided government influence Congress. | C.1.1.1.4  C.1.2.1.1  C.1.2.1.3  C.1.2.1.4  C.1.3.1.2  C.2.3.2.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Describe the many roles of the President. | C.1.1.2.1  C.1.1.2.3  C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain how Article two establishes and vests power in the Executive Branch. | C.1.3.1.2  C.2.4.2.1  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP1  MP3 |
| Debate the reasons for growth of Presidential power. | C.1.1.2.2  RH.11-12.1-10  WHST.11-12.1,4,7,9 | MP1  MP3 |
| Summarize how the federal bureaucracy carries out the responsibilities of government. | C.1.1.2.2  C.1.1.2.3  C.1.4.1.1  C.2.4.2.1  C.2.4.2.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.7 | MP1  MP3 |
| Explain the structure of the federal court system. | C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP2  MP4 |
| Define judicial review and explain how it checks the power of Congress, the president, and the states. | C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP2  MP4 |
| Explain and give examples of due process. | C.1.4.1.1  C.2.4.2.1  C.2.4.2.2  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2 | MP2  MP4 |
| Analyze and explain key Supreme Court decisions. | C.1.4.1.1  C.1.4.2.1  C.1.4.2.2  C.1.4.2.3  C.2.4.1.1  C.2.4.1.2  RH.11-12.1-10  WHST.11-12.2,8,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Examine how the Constitution and Bill of Rights protect individual liberties. | C.1.1.3.1  C.1.1.3.2  C.1.1.3.3  C.2.1.2.3  RH.11-12.1-5  WHST.11-12.9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Predict how our current interpretations of the Bill of Rights might change in the future. | C.2.2.2.3  C.2.3.1.2  C.2.3.1.3  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.7,10 | MP2  MP4 |
| Examine the protections placed within the Bill of Rights for those accused of, tried for, and convicted of crimes. | C.1.1.3.2  C.1.1.3.3  C.1.2.2.1  C.2.1.2.2  C.2.1.2.3  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.7,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Compare and contrast the ideal of civil rights with the reality of civil rights in United States History. | C.1.1.3.1  C.1.1.3.2  C.1.1.3.3  C.2.3.1.1  RH.11-12.2,4,6-10  WHST.11-12.8,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Summarize the major civil rights laws passed during Reconstruction and explain the effects these laws. | C.1.1.3.1  C.1.1.3.2  C.1.1.3.3  C.1.3.2.2  C.1.3.2.4  RH.11-12.2,4  WHST.11-12.2,4,7,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Describe the factors that caused the United States to begin to change its immigration policies in the late 1800s. | C.1.1.3.3  C.2.3.1.1  C.2.4.1.1  RH.11-12.2-4,7  WHST.11-12.8,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Examine the role of the governor and state legislature. | C.1.3.1.1  C.1.3.1.2  C.1.3.1.3  C.1.4.1.2  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Describe the structure of local and county government. | C.1.3.1.1  C.1.3.1.2  RH.11-12.2,4,7  WHST.11-12.2,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Explain the services state and local governments provide. | C.1.1.2.2  C.1.4.1.1  RH.11-12.2,4,7  WHST.11-12.2,9 | MP2  MP4 |
| Describe and compare the election process in the United States and in Pennsylvania | C.1.3.2.1  C.1.3.2.2  C.1.3.2.3  RH.11-12.1,2,4  WHST.11-12.2,4,8 | MP2  MP4 |

**ASSESSMENTS**

**PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

**Effective formative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Journal Entry
* Entry/Exit Ticket
* Thinking Map
* Verbal Explanation
* Observation
* Artifacts
* Reflection/Summary
* Quiz

**Summative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

**Effective summative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Marking Period Assessment/Final Exam
* Writing a Paper/Essay
* Performance Tasks
* Project
* Tests
* Portfolio