

Course Description, US Government (CP) (one semester)

Students in 12th grade US Government study the US federal, state, and local governments, how they are related, and how they have evolved since their inception. Students begin with a study of the ancient democratic processes and the enlightenment philosophers who most influenced the framers of the US Constitution. Students then examine each branch of the federal, state, and local governments and how they have changed. Students focus particularly on the first, second, and fourth amendments, and how they have been interpreted by the Supreme Court throughout our history. Along the way, students must formulate and support opinions on the logic and morality behind the philosophical underpinnings of the US systems of government.

Each unit in Government lasts for 1-2 weeks.

Unit 1, Essential Vocabulary, part 1
Unit 2, Essential Vocabulary, part 2
Unit 3, Foundations of American Political Thought
Unit 4, The Writing of our Constitution
Unit 5, The Legislature, part 1
Unit 6, The Legislature, part 2
Unit 7, The Executive
Unit 8, The Judiciary
Unit 9, The Criminal Justice System
Unit 10, First Amendment
Unit 11, Second Amendment
Unit 12, Fourth Amendment
Unit 13, Governmental Expansions
Unit 14 Foreign Policy
FINAL

Student Learning Outcomes:

The course builds reading, researching, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students learn how to formulate opinions and persuade peers of the validity of said opinions. The course adheres to UC, CA, and Common Core standards for 12th grade US Government

Texts:

Holt McDougal United States Government, Principles in Practice
ISBN: 978-0-547-45138-1