

Government – SOC501

Course Description: This 18 week course takes a non-sequential approach by starting at the polls. Its theme is power, who has it, who doesn't and how government affects everything from wages to disease control. We do not assume that all of our students are enamored of 17th Century philosophers, but when history or philosophy is applicable to understanding, we present relevant material. We have attempted to create a practical, engaging course which connects young people to their political context, and hopefully empowers them to better understand their role as citizens

Course Outline:

UNIT 1 – The Vote

Big idea: Do you have any power?

UNIT 2 – The Philosophy and Pros and Cons of Democracy.

Big idea: How does geography help us understand our world?

UNIT 3 – Separation of Powers

Big idea: What are the powers of each branch of government? How did the framers use compromises?

UNIT 4 – Rights

Big idea: How are individual rights protected against powers of the state?

UNIT 5 - Working Parts of Government

Big idea: What are the working parts of government and who is in power?

UNIT 6 - Citizenship

Big idea: What does it mean to be an American Citizen? Do we have responsibilities as well as rights?

UNIT 7 - CBA

Big idea: Classroom Based Assessment.

Course Objectives:

EALR: 1. CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship. Component: 1.1 Understands key ideals and principles of the United States, including those in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other fundamental documents.

EALR: 1. CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship. Component: 1.2 Understands the purposes, organization, and function of governments, laws, and political systems.

EALR: 1. CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship. Component: 1.3 Understands the purposes and organization of international relationships and U.S. foreign policy.

EALR: 1. CIVICS The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship. Component: 1.4 Understands civic involvement.

Number/Description of Projects, Exams, Activities, etc:

- **Activities/Assignments** – Within each of the units, students must complete formative activities. When completed, the activities provide feedback to students on ways to improve learning for better understanding.
 - **Discussion Assignments** – In each of the units, students will complete a discussion board assignment. The teacher and other students read posts and provide feedback.
 - **1 CBA**– Students must complete the Classroom Based Assessment. Course requirement.
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Materials:

There is no required text book. There is significant content as part of the Course Material and hundreds of supplemental readings supplied as PDF's or web links.

Timelines & Methods for evaluating student progress: Students are expected to log in daily and submit assignments on a weekly basis. Progress will be evaluated each month based progress towards assignment completion of assignments. This course meets state and district graduation requirements in the area of Social Studies.

Weekly contact will be conducted through a submitted assignment with instructor feedback. Students who do not submit an assignment are expected to email or call his/her instructor. Each student is expected to spend a minimum of five hours per week on this course. Additional hours may be necessary to complete the course successfully.