



HS US Government

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Prerequisites:

- This class is open to 9th-12th grade students.
- It is recommended but not required that students take American History before enrolling in US Government.



Course Description:

Many Americans admit they do not fully understand how our government works. This course gives you the opportunity to become informed, thoughtful, and confident in navigating our political system. We will explore both the “why” and the “how” of America’s founding documents, examining the ideas that shaped them and the structure they created. At the same time, we will study the practical “nuts and bolts” of government: how laws are written and passed, how institutions function, and how power is distributed and checked. To deepen our understanding, we will also compare the U.S. system with governments from other times and places. We’ll ask questions like:

- Why is our government structured the way it is?
- How does legislation actually move from proposal to law?
- What influences people to adopt the political views they hold?



Commitment:

- This course meets once a week and is a .5 credit course that meets for half of the school year.
- Approximately 2-4 hours of homework per week can be expected
- All written work done outside of class must be typed and brought to class.
- Homework can include an assigned reading, completing various discussion questions, research activities, and/or preparing for a quiz or a test.
- Students will present a final project at the end of the semester.
- A final exam will be given on Schoology.
- Participation is vital in a class such as this. Participation means coming to class prepared and engaging with the tutor and fellow students about the ideas and concepts covered in that week’s homework.



A typical class will look like...

Class time will be spent in discussion, engaging with the topics and issues raised during the week, as well as lesson review, current event discussion, lecture and group activities.



Books and Supplies

There is no text to purchase for this course. All materials will be provided by the teacher.

- 3-ring binder or folder for homework and handouts
- Notebook or 3-ring binder for note-taking

Students will need access to the Internet on a regular basis.