

Participation in Government



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Participation in Government course is designed to be the culmination of a student's K–12 social studies experience. The course is intended to help students synthesize and apply this experience to the study of contemporary and/or historical public issues and to increase students' awareness of their rights and responsibilities as a citizen. Students are expected to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They will compare systems of

government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents as well as to different political and economic philosophies, and to gain a better understanding of the role institutions outside of government, such as the media and special interest groups, play in the political process. Current events provide much of the content for the class, and so, with that understanding, students and the teacher should be flexible in allowing those issues to shape the curriculum throughout the course of the semester.

UNITS OF STUDY

1. Political Systems and Ideologies
2. The U.S. Constitution and Federalism
3. Congress and the law making process
4. Campaigns and Elections
5. Individual Rights and the Courts

GRADING:

A student's grade in this course will be based on several factors: 1) participation/classwork; 2) homework; 3) long-term assignments and presentations; 4) performance on tests and quizzes; 6) Current Events Assignments.

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