

Florida Department of Education**COURSE DESCRIPTION - GRADES 9-12, ADULT**

Subject Area: Social Studies
Course Number: 2106320
Course Title: American Government Honors
Credit: 0.5

Will meet graduation requirement for American Government

- A. Major Concepts/Content.** The purpose of this course is to enable students to gain an understanding of American government and political behavior that is essential for effective citizenship and active involvement in a democratic American society.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- interrelationship between American government and the American economic system
- documents that shape our political traditions, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers
- functions of the three branches of government at the local, state, and national levels
- Florida government, including the State constitution
- municipal and county government
- the evolving role of political parties and interest groups in determining government policy
- how rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic state have evolved and been interpreted
- contemporary political issues

- career opportunities available in government services
- importance of civic participation in the democratic political process
- role of women and diverse cultural groups in the development of our political system

This course shall integrate the Goal 3 Student Performance Standards of the Florida System of School Improvement and Accountability as appropriate to the content and processes of the subject matter.

- B. Special Note.** Students earning credit in this course may not earn credit in American Government (2106310) or The American Political System: Process and Power (2106450).

The course requirements for this honors course are consistent with American Government, Course Number 2106310. The district shall develop a description of additional requirements to provide for in-depth or enriched study of the course requirements.

- C. Course Requirements.** These requirements include, but are not limited to, the benchmarks from the Sunshine State Standards that are most relevant to this course. Benchmarks correlated with a specific course requirement may also be addressed by other course requirements as appropriate. Some requirements in this course are not addressed in the Sunshine State Standards.

After successfully completing this course, the student will:

- 1. Compare the structure and functions of government at all levels: national, state (Florida), municipal, and county.**
 - SS.C.1.4.1 understand the nature of political authority and the nature of the relationship between government and civil society in limited governments (e.g., constitutional democracies) and unlimited governments (e.g., totalitarian regimes).

SS.C.1.4.2 understand the ideas that led to the creation of limited government in the United States (e.g., ideas of natural rights philosophy, and the concept of popular sovereignty).

SS.C.1.4.3 understand how the overall design and specific features of the Constitution prevent the abuse of power by aggregating power at the national, state, and local levels; dispersing power among different levels of government; and using a system of checks and balances (e.g., federalism).

2. Analyze the basic principles of political organization embodied in the Constitution of the United States and the State Constitution of Florida.

SS.C.1.4.3 understand how the overall design and specific features of the Constitution prevent the abuse of power by aggregating power at the national, state, and local levels; dispersing power among different levels of government; and using a system of checks and balances (e.g., federalism).

3. Compare the decision-making process at all levels of the three branches of government.

SS.C.1.4.3 understand how the overall design and specific features of the Constitution prevent the abuse of power by aggregating power at the national, state, and local levels; dispersing power among different levels of government; and using a system of checks and balances (e.g., federalism).

4. Examine the influence of individuals and interest groups in the governmental decision-making process.

SS.A.5.4.7 understand the development of federal civil rights and voting rights since the 1950s and the social and political implications of these events.

SS.C.1.4.4 understand the role of special interest groups, political parties, the media, public opinion, and majority/minority conflicts on the development of public policy and the political process.

5. Trace the evolution of the relationship between majority rule and individual rights.

SS.A.2.4.4 understand significant aspects of the economic, political, and social systems of ancient Greece and the cultural contributions of that civilization.

SS.A.2.4.5 understand the significant features of the political, economic, and social systems of ancient Rome and the cultural legacy of that civilization.

SS.A.3.4.6 understand transformations in the political and social realms from the Age of Absolutism through the Glorious Revolution to the French Revolution.

SS.C.2.4.5 understand how personal, political, and economic rights are secured by constitutional government and by such means as the rule of law, checks and balances, an independent judiciary, and a vigilant citizenry.

6. Analyze the effectiveness of our federal system of government in addressing domestic and foreign problems.

(**Note:** In this course, major historical events will be used to illustrate important political decisions and policies.)

SS.A.3.4.10 understand the political, military, and economic events since the 1950s that have had a significant impact on international relations.

SS.A.4.4.5 understand the significant political events that took place during the early national period.

- SS.A.5.4.3 understand significant events leading up to the United States involvement in World War I and the political, social, and economic results of that conflict in Europe and the United States.
- SS.A.5.4.5 know the origins and effects of the involvement of the United States in World War II.
- SS.A.5.4.6 understand the political events that shaped the development of United States foreign policy since World War II and know the characteristics of that policy.
- SS.A.5.4.7 understand the development of federal civil rights and voting rights since the 1950s and the social and political implications of these events.
- SS.A.5.4.8 know significant political events and issues that have shaped domestic policy decisions in contemporary America.

7. Examine the relationship between American political traditions and the American way of life (i.e., social, economic, and religious ideals).

- SS.A.5.4.4 understand social transformations that took place in the 1920s and 1930s, the principal political and economic factors that led to the Great Depression, and the legacy of the Depression in American society.
- SS.B.1.4.4 understand how cultural and technological characteristics can link or divide regions.
- SS.C.2.4.6 understand the argument that personal, political, and economic rights reinforce each other.
- SS.D.2.4.3 understand how government taxes, policies, and programs affect individuals, groups, businesses, and regions.

8. Demonstrate understanding of the importance of participation in community service and political activities.

- SS.C.2.4.1 develop and define his or her own political beliefs and tendencies.
- SS.C.2.4.2 assess the role that his or her own political behavior plays in determining the flow of power through our political system and for resolving conflicts in a pluralistic society.
- SS.C.2.4.3 understand issues of personal concern: the rights and responsibilities of the individual under the U.S. Constitution; the importance of civil liberties; the role of conflict resolution and compromise; and issues involving ethical behavior in politics.
- SS.C.2.4.4 understand the distinction between citizens and noncitizens (aliens) and the process by which aliens may become citizens.
- SS.C.2.4.7 know the points at which citizens can monitor or influence the process of public policy formation.

9. Examine career opportunities and requirements in government service.

10. Apply research, study, critical thinking, and decision-making skills and demonstrate the use of new and emerging technology in problem solving.

- SS.A.1.4.3 evaluate conflicting sources and materials in the interpretation of a historical event or episode.
- SS.A.1.4.4 use chronology, sequencing, patterns, and periodization to examine interpretations of an event.
- SS.B.1.4.3 use mental maps of physical and human features of the world to answer complex geographic questions.

(Note: In this course, students will have opportunities to apply skills described in language arts and mathematics benchmarks that pertain to this requirement.)