



**SPRING GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**PLANNED COURSE OVERVIEW**

<p><b>Course Title:</b> Introduction to American Government (College in the High School GP #201)</p> <p><b>Grade Level(s):</b> 12</p> <p><b>Units of Credit:</b> 1 for High School; 3 for College</p> <p><b>Classification:</b> All 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take a government course. Students may take this course if they qualify for College in the High School</p>	<p><b>Length of Course:</b> 15 cycles</p> <p><b>Periods Per Cycle:</b> 6</p> <p><b>Length of Period:</b> 43 minutes</p> <p><b>Total Instructional Time:</b> 64.5 hours</p>
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***Course Description***

This course is an introduction to the American government system including in-depth discussion of the United States Constitution, interest groups, political parties, voting patterns, public opinion, the Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, civil rights, civil liberties, foreign policy, and economic policy.

***Instructional Strategies, Learning Practices, Activities, and Experiences***

Independent Reading Homework Bell Ringers Essay Response	Reading and Writing Practice Guided Group Practice Guided Individual Practice Media Analysis	Primary Source Analysis Teacher Demonstrations Constructive Response
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***Assessments***

Essays Short Answer Response Primary Source Documents	Homework Reading Responses Independent Project	Group Project Final Exam Media Responses
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***Materials/Resources***

Textbook: Patterson, Thomas. We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics  
McGraw-Hill (Latest Edition)

**Adopted:** 2009

**Revised:** 2016 (Name changed from National Political Systems to Intro to American Government); 5/15/2017

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Identify the major features of the United States Constitution and evaluate how these features can be used to limit the power of the federal government.</p>	<p>Study the Constitution                      Democracy and Non-Democracy                      Government Institutions</p> <p>5.1.12.A Evaluate the major arguments advanced for the necessity of government.                      5.1.12.B Analyze the sources, purposes, and functions of law.                      5.1.12.C Evaluate the importance of the principles and ideals of civic life.                      5.1.12.D Analyze the principles and ideals that shape the government of Pennsylvania and apply them to the government. (The Charter of 1681, Charter of Privileges, Pennsylvania Constitution, its revisions and amendments)                      5.1.12.E Evaluate the principles and ideals that shape the United States and compare them to documents of government.                      5.1.12.F Analyze and assess the rights of the people as listed in the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.                      5.1.12.G Analyze and interpret the role of the United States Flag in civil disobedience and in patriotic activities.                      5.1.12.H Analyze the competing positions held by the framers of the basic documents of government of Pennsylvania and United States.                      5.1.12.I Analyze historical examples of the importance of the rule of law explaining the sources, purposes, and functions of law.                      5.1.12.J Analyze how the law promotes the common good and protects individual rights.                      5.1.12.K Analyze the roles of symbols and holidays in society.                      5.1.12.L Analyze Pennsylvania and United States court decisions that have affected principles and ideals of government in civic life. (Civil rights, Commerce, Judicial review, Federal supremacy)                      5.2.12.A Evaluate an individual's civic rights, responsibilities, and duties in various governments.                      5.3.12.K Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various systems of government. (Autocracy, Democracy, Oligarchy, Republic)                      8.1.12.A Evaluate chronological thinking: Sequential order of historical narrative; Continuity and change; Context for events.</p>

<b>CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS</b>
<p>Evaluate the historical development of civil liberties and civil rights to the maintenance of democracy and the United States system of government.</p>	<p>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Political Culture and Socialization</p> <p>5.2.12.B Evaluate citizens' participation in government and civic life. 5.2.12.C Interpret the causes of conflict in society and analyze techniques to resolve those conflicts. 5.2.12.D Evaluate political leadership and public service in a republican form of government. 5.2.12.E Analyze how participation in civic and political life leads to the attainment of individual and public goals. 5.2.12.F Evaluate how individual rights may conflict with or support the common good. 5.2.12.G Evaluate what makes a competent and responsible citizen.</p> <p>5.3.12.A Analyze and evaluate the structure, organization, and operation of the local, state, and national governments including domestic and national policy-making. 5.3.12.B Analyze the responsibilities and powers of the national government. 5.3.12.C Evaluate the process of how a bill becomes the law on federal, state, and local levels. 5.3.12.D Evaluate how independent government agencies create, amend, and enforce regulations.</p>

<b>CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS</b>
<p>Compare and contrast the roles of the individual citizen, Congress, the President, the Supreme Court, political parties, and interest groups in the formation of public policy.</p>	<p>Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Citizen Action                      Congress, President, Supreme Court, and Public Policy                      Electoral Systems</p> <p>5.3.12.E Evaluate the roles of political parties in election campaigns.                      5.3.12.F Evaluate the elements of the election process.                      5.3.12.G Evaluate how the government protects or curtails individual rights and analyze the impact of supporting or opposing those rights.                      5.3.12.H Evaluate the impact of interest groups on the political process.                      5.3.12.I Evaluate how and why government raises money to pay for its operations and services.                      5.3.12.J Evaluate the role of media in political life in the United States and explain the role of the media in setting the public agenda.                      5.3.12.K Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various systems of government. (Autocracy, Democracy, Oligarchy, Republic)</p> <p>8.1.12.A Evaluate chronological thinking: Sequential order of historical narrative; Continuity and change; Context for events.                      8.1.12.B Synthesize and evaluate historical sources: Literal meaning of historical passages; Data in historical and contemporary maps, graphs and tables; Different historical perspectives; Data presented in maps, graphs and tables; Visual data presented in historical evidence.                      8.1.12.C Evaluate historical interpretation of events: Impact of opinions on the perception of facts; Issues and problems in the past; Multiple points of view; Illustrations in historical stories and sources; Connections between causes and results; Author or source of historical narratives' points of view; Central issue.                      8.1.12.D Synthesize historical research: Historical event (time and place); Facts, folklore and fiction; Historical questions; Primary sources; Secondary sources; Conclusions (e.g., Senior Projects, research papers, debates); Credibility of evidence.</p> <p>1.1.12.A Apply appropriate strategies to construct meaning through interpretation and to analyze and evaluate author's use of techniques and elements of fiction and nonfiction for rhetorical and aesthetic purposes.                      1.1.12.B Use context clues, knowledge of root words and word origins, as well as reference sources to decode and understand new words.</p>

CONTENT/KEY CONCEPTS	OBJECTIVES/STANDARDS
<p>Describe how individuals are socialized into the US political system and how this socialization translates into political participation.</p>	<p>United States Political System and Political Participation</p> <p>5.4.12.A Analyze the impact of international economic, technological and cultural developments on the government of the United States.</p> <p>5.4.12.B Analyze the United States' interaction with other nations and governmental groups in world events.</p> <p>5.4.12.C Compare how past and present United States' policy interests have changed over time and analyze the impact on future international relationships.</p> <p>5.4.12.D Explain how foreign policy is developed and implemented.</p> <p>5.4.12.E Compare the purposes and functions of international organizations. (Governmental (e.g., North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), World Court, Organization of American States (OAS)); Nongovernmental (e.g., International Red Cross, Amnesty International, World Council of Churches)) based upon economic indicators.</p> <p>6.1.12.D Describe historical examples of expansion, recession, and depression internationally.</p> <p>6.4.12.B Analyze the relationships between trade, competition, and productivity.</p> <p>6.4.12.C Evaluate how a nation might benefit by lowering or removing trade barriers.</p> <p>6.4.12.D Explain how the location of resources, transportation, and communication networks and technology have affected international economic patterns.</p> <p>6.4.12.E Analyze how United States consumers and producers participate in the global production and consumption of goods or services.</p> <p>6.4.12.G Evaluate characteristics and distribution of international economic activities. (Primary - extractive industries (i.e., farming, fishing, forestry, mining); Secondary - materials processing industries (i.e., manufacturing); Tertiary - service industries (e.g., retailing, wholesaling, finance, real estate, travel and tourism))</p>