

SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

DIVISION OF ADULT EDUCATION
High School Subjects

VI
Level

U.S. Government
2015

9055
Code

DURATION: Satisfactory completion of all required work and a minimum of 60 hours.

GRADE LEVEL: Adult/12

PREREQUISITES: It is recommended that students take U.S. History 1 and 2 before taking the U.S. Government course.

CREDIT: One (1) semester credit toward the social science requirements for high school graduation may be earned.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This one semester course is designed to help students understand the workings of the American system at the federal, state, and local levels. Students study the philosophy of those who framed the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, follow an in-depth analysis of the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy, analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution, focus on the effect of landmark Supreme Court decisions and discuss the American voting behavior, political parties, and the political process. Furthermore, students learn the principles of federalism and the jurisdictions of national, state, and local governments. The course also examines the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens and prepares students to vote, to reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship, and to participate in community activities.

STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES:

- Students will establish personal, academic and/or workforce goals and demonstrate progress toward them
- Students will solve problems
- Students will communicate clearly and collaborate with others
- Students will use resources, including technology, to research, organize and communicate information

GOALS:

Through the principles and practice presented in this course, students will

- 1.0 Explain the fundamental principles of American democracy and government as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy (CS Gov 12.1.0).
- 2.0 Analyze and evaluate the rights and obligations of American citizens, (including the ways of obtaining citizenship); consider how the United States Supreme Court has interpreted those rights CS Gov 12.2.0, 12.5.0).
- 3.0 Explain the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution (CS Gov 12.4.0).
- 4.0 Explain and evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state and local elective offices (CS Gov 12.6.0).
- 5.0 Analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state and local governments (CS Gov 12.7.0).
- 6.0 Evaluate and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life (CS Gov 12.8.0).

OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Explain the fundamental principles of American democracy and government as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.
 - 1.1. Explain the influences of ancient Greek (democracy) and Roman (republic) governments; English political contributions (limited government, individual rights, rule of law); as well as European political thinkers, such as John Locke and Charles-Louise Montesquieu on the development of the concept of the social contract and on American government (CS Gov 12.1.1).
 - 1.2. Describe how the ratification of the U.S. Constitution reflects a balance between the concern with promotion of the public good (classical republican position) and the concern with protecting individual rights (classical liberalism position); and discuss how the basic premises of liberal constitutionalism and democracy are joined in the Declaration of Independence as “self-evident truths” (CS Gov 12.1.3).
 - 1.3. Differentiate major constitutional concepts, how they are interrelated, and how they limit government. Consider the following (CS Gov 12.1.5):
 - separated and shared powers
 - checks and balances
 - importance of an independent judiciary

- federalism
 - enumerated powers
 - civilian control of the military
 - rule of law
 - amending the Constitution
- 1.4. Analyze the development of the Supreme Court (Marbury v. Madison—judicial review) as the interpreter of constitutional issues regarding state vs. federal power (McCulloch v. Maryland) and conflicts between branches of government (U.S. v. Nixon) (CS Gov 12.1.6, 12.5.3).
 2. Analyze and evaluate the rights and obligations of American citizens, (including the ways of obtaining citizenship); consider how the United States Supreme Court has interpreted those rights.
 - 2.1. Explain and analyze the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights, how they have been applied to the States through the Fourteenth Amendment, how each right is secured e.g., freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, privacy) and how they have been interpreted (CS Gov 12.2.1, 12.5.1).
 - 2.2. Summarize and evaluate the changing interpretations of the Bill of Rights through important Supreme Court decisions, (including Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, and Miranda v. Arizona), especially those concerning the First Amendment and the due process and equal protection of the law clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment; apply Court interpretation to current civil rights issues (CS Gov 12.5.4).
 - 2.3. Critique the obligations of civic-mindedness, including voting, being informed on civic issues, volunteering and performing public service, and serving in the military or alternative service (CS Gov 12.2.4).
 - 2.4. Explain how one becomes a citizen of the United States by birth or by choice, including the process of naturalization, and explain the obligations of citizenship (CS Gov 12.2.6).
 3. Explain the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.
 - 3.1. Explain Article I of the Constitution as it relates to the legislative branch, including eligibility for office and lengths of terms of representatives and senators; reapportionment; election to office; the roles of the House and Senate in impeachment proceedings; the role of the vice president; enumerated and implied legislative powers; and the process by which a bill becomes a law (CS Gov 12.4.1).
 - 3.2. Explain Article II of the Constitution as it relates to the executive branch,

- including eligibility for office and length of terms, elections to and removal from office, the Electoral College, the oath of office, and enumerated and implied executive powers (CS Gov 12.4.4).
- 3.3. Explain Article III of the Constitution as it relates to judicial power, including the length of terms of judges, processes of selection and confirmation of Supreme Court justices, and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court (CS Gov 12.4.5).
 - 3.4 Explain the process through which the Constitution can be amended (CS Gov 12.4.2).
4. Explain and evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state and local elective offices.
 - 4.1. Analyze the origin, development, and role of political parties, noting those occasional periods in which there was only one major party or were more than two major parties (CS Gov 12.6.1).
 - 4.2. Summarize the history of the nomination process for presidential candidates and the increasing importance of primaries in general elections, including how this new trend affects political parties (CS Gov 12.6.2, 12.6.6).
 - 4.3. Summarize the campaign process; explain and evaluate the role of public opinion polls, campaign advertising, the media, and the controversies over campaign funding (CS Gov 12.6.3).
 - 4.4. Explain and evaluate the means that citizens use to participate in the political process (e.g., voting, campaigning, lobbying, participation in an interest group, filing a legal challenge, demonstrating, petitioning, picketing, running for political office, and the obligations of voting, serving on a jury, and obeying the laws) (CS Gov 12.6.4).
 - 4.5. Explain and evaluate the features of direct democracy in numerous states (e.g., the process of referendum, initiatives, recall elections); identify local elected officials (CS Gov 12.6.5).
 5. Analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state and local governments.
 - 5.1 Explain how conflicts between levels of government and branches of government are resolved (CS Gov 12.7.1)
 - 5.2 Identify the major responsibilities and sources of revenue for state and local governments (CS Gov 12.7.2).
 - 5.3 Discuss the Ninth and Tenth Amendments and interpretations of the extent of the

federal government's power (CS Gov 12.7.4).

- 5.4 Compare the processes of lawmaking at each of the three levels of government and identify the organization and jurisdiction of federal, state and local courts and the interrelationships among them (CS Gov 12.7.6, 12.7.7).
- 5.5 Understand the scope of presidential power and decision making in cases such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, War Powers Act, Gulf War and Bosnia (CS Gov 12.7.8).
- 6.0 Evaluate and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.
 - 6.1 Discuss the meaning and importance of free and responsible press (CS Gov 12.8.1).
 - 6.2 Describe the roles of broadcast, print, and electronic media, including the Internet, as means of communication in American politics and explain how public officials use the media to communicate with the citizenry and use it to shape public opinion (CS Gov 12.8.2, 12.8.3).

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES AND TIMES:

Individual work on assignments	50%
Teacher/student evaluation of student practice	10%
Computer assisted learning	10%
Assessment	30%

EVALUATION:

- 1. Satisfactory completion of research, Internet, and written assignments as evaluated by the instructor.
- 2. Satisfactory completion of teacher-made and/or standardized test as evaluated by the instructor.
- 3. Satisfactory progress and participation in classroom activities as evaluated by the instructor.

CONDITIONS FOR REPETITION:

Students who have failed to meet the objectives because of insufficient attendance or inability to master content may repeat the course.

Approved:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 21, 1974

Revised:

April 5, 1979

July 18, 1985

August 14, 1986

May 14, 1993

September 28, 2000

June 20, 2005

May 17, 2011

May 26, 2015

October 26, 2015