

U.S. GOVERNMENT

.5 Credit

Semester

11, 12

Course Description: This class deals primarily with the structure and functions of the national and state governments of the United States. Included is a study of the development of our political system, elections, Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Court system. The structure and function of Wisconsin state and local government is also studied. Emphasis will be placed on government processes as they relate to society today.

UNIT: I. BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Time Line: 1.5 to 2 weeks

Wisconsin Standards: C 12.2, C12.4, C12.5, C12.13

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Role of Government – Provide the Needs of Society
- B. Forms of Government
 - 1. Democracy - Authoritarian
 - 2. Unitary – Confederate - Federal
 - 3. Parliamentary – Presidential - Dictatorial

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate civic involvement in the democratic system.
- Distinguish between democratic systems and totalitarian system.
- Apply skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and information gathering as they apply to governmental and social issues.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the relationship between the United States and the world community.

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture
Video/DVD
Research
Small Group/Coop Activity

Outside Readings
Discussion
Guest Speakers

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*
Video/DVD
Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*
Internet

Suggested Assessments:

Projects
Participation
Test
Quiz
Daily Assignments

UNIT: II. THE CONSTITUTION

Time Line: 3 weeks

Wisconsin Standards: C 12.1, C12.2, C12.3, C12.5, C12.6

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Nature of the Constitution
 - 1. Structure – Basic Government
 - 2. Democratic Concepts
- B. Development of the Constitution
 - 1. Failure of the Articles of Confederation
 - 2. Constitutional Convention
 - 4. Ratification
 - 5. Amending Process/Bill of Rights

Learner Outcomes:

- Apply skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, and information gathering as they apply to governmental and social issues.
- Integrate factual and conceptual knowledge obtained in the government curriculum to situations as they affect them as citizens.
- Illustrate the ability to compare and contrast majority rule versus minority rights in the democratic process.
- Examine the role of government in the organization of society.

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture	Outside Readings
Video/DVD	Discussion
Research	Guest Speakers
Small Group/Coop Activity	

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*

Video/DVD

Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*

Internet

Suggested Assessments:

Projects

Participation

Test

Quiz

Daily Assignments

UNIT: III. POLITICAL PROCESS

Time Line: 1.5 to 2 weeks

Wisconsin Standards: C12.4, C12.5, C12.7, C12.8, C12.9, C12.10, C12.11, C12.14

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Development of Political Parties
- B. Role of Political Parties
- C. Voting and Elections

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate civic involvement in the democratic system.
- Design a program of civic involvement that illustrates a concern, tolerance, and respect for others.

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture	Outside Readings
Video/DVD	Discussion
Research	Guest Speakers
Small Group/Coop Activity	

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*
Video/DVD
Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*
Internet

Suggested Assessments:

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Participation
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UNIT: IV. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
A. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
B. EXECUTIVE BRANCH
C. JUDICIAL BRANCH

Time Line:

Legislative – 3 weeks

Executive Branch/Article II – 2.5 to 3 weeks

Judicial Branch/Article III – 2.5 weeks

Wisconsin Standards:

Legislative – C.12.9, C.12.11, C.12.14

Executive Branch/Article II – C12.14

Judicial Branch/Article III – C12.8, C12.14, C12.16

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Legislative Branch – Article I
 - 1. Structure
 - 2. Function
 - 3. Pressure Groups/Lobbyists
- B. Executive Branch – Article II
 - 1. Structure
 - 2. Powers
 - 3. Selection Process
 - 4. Election and Electoral College System
- C. Judicial Branch – Article III
 - 1. Development of Law and our Legal System
 - 2. Structure of the Federal Court System
 - 3. The role of the Supreme Court
 - 4. Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate and understanding of the structure and function of national, state, and local government.
- Integrate factual and conceptual knowledge obtained in the government curriculum to situations as they affect them as citizens.
- Illustrate the ability to compare and contrast majority rule versus minority rights in the democratic process

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture

Video/DVD

Research

Small Group/Coop Activity

Outside Readings

Discussion

Guest Speakers

UNIT IV Continued

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*

Video/DVD

Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*

Internet

Suggested Assessments:

Projects

Participation

Test

Quiz

Daily Assignments

UNIT: V. STATE GOVERNMENT

Time Line: 1.5 weeks

Wisconsin Standards: C.12.10, C.12.14

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial – Structure and Organization
- B. Federalism – National/State Relations
- C. Federalism – State/State Relations

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate and understanding of the structure and function of national, state, and local government.
- Integrate factual and conceptual knowledge obtained in the government curriculum to situations as they affect them as citizens.

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture	Outside Readings
Video/DVD	Discussion
Research	Guest Speakers
Small Group/Coop Activity	

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*

Video/DVD

Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*

Internet

Suggested Assessments:

Projects

Participation

Test

Quiz

Daily Assignments

UNIT: VI. LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CURRENT EVENTS WILL BE USED WHEN APPROPRIATE

Time Line: 1 week

Wisconsin Standards: C.12.8, C.12.9, C.12.10

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. County
- B. City – Town – Village
- C. Special Districts

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate and understanding of the structure and function of national, state, and local government.
- Integrate factual and conceptual knowledge obtained in the government curriculum to situations as they affect them as citizens.

Instructional Strategies:

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|---------------------------|------------------|
| Lecture | Outside Readings |
| Video/DVD | Discussion |
| Research | Guest Speakers |
| Small Group/Coop Activity | |

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*
Video/DVD
Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*
Internet

Suggested Assessments:

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UNIT: VII. THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY

Time Line: 1 week

Wisconsin Standards: C 12.10, C.12.14

Unit Sub-Topics:

- A. Practical Applications of Citizenship at the Local Level
- B. Sense of Posterity

Learner Outcomes:

- Demonstrate civic involvement in the democratic system.

Instructional Strategies:

Lecture	Outside Readings
Video/DVD	Discussion
Research	Guest Speakers
Small Group/Coop Activity	

Suggested Activities/Resources:

Textbook: *McGruder's American Government*

Video/DVD

Outside Readings: *Time, Newsweek, Up Front*

Internet

Suggested Assessments:

Projects

Participation

Test

Quiz

Daily Assignments