

COURSE NUMBER: HS1016
COURSE TITLE: Advanced Placement American Government
COURSE LENGTH: Semester, One Credit
PREREQUISITE: Counselor Recommendation
GRADE LEVEL: 12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

American Government is a required course. This is taught as an Advanced Placement course or college level course. Students will have the option of taking the Advanced Placement test in May for a fee and earn college credit meeting certain scoring criteria. Materials covered are undergraduate college level. It is a survey of the foundations of American government, the American political system, the major institutions of the federal government, as well as political theory and public policy. Students must choose and complete various units designed to introduce and involve themselves in the government and its activities. Some career areas that this course would benefit might be politics, civil service, education, military, foreign relations, and business.

COURSE RATIONALE:

This is a course in American government and the political system and teaches students how to become good citizens in a democracy. Students will learn what civic virtue is, how our government works and what our responsibility is as citizens. Students will analyze controversial issues so that as citizens the student can learn to understand the debates that have shaped our society. Students will discuss political ideology, the development of the political system and our democratic institutions as well as review public policy.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Discussion, group/partner activities, and lecture
2. Role playing, simulations, debates
3. Movies and videos of historical and contemporary issues
4. Computer simulations and internet investigative activities
5. Written focus essays
6. Problem solving activities
7. Various readings from a text book, primary and secondary sources, and media handouts
8. CD's - Activities to get involved and understand your community and government

ASSESSMENT:

A combination of group and individual presentations, daily work, quizzes, projects, tests, and cd's.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop and awareness and appreciation of the rights, responsibilities and democratic values of being an American citizen.
2. Develop a sense of responsibility to self and others in order to function successfully in the local and world community.

3. Develop an awareness of contemporary issues in our changing global and technological society.
4. Develop an awareness of cultural diversity.
5. Process information through research, analysis and communication.
6. Develop thinking and problem solving skills.