

# US Government

Teachers (Who is Currently Teaching This Course?) Scott, Hines, Bogema		Description of Average Weekly Outside Requirements	
<b>Main Topics (What main ideas/concepts will be covered?):</b>  Foundations of American Government Branches of American Government Rights & Responsibilities of Citizens Election & the Media Foreign Policy	<b>Rationale (Why should a student take this course?)</b>  Through this course, students understand the process of the creation of the US Government. Students will examine the US Constitution, the powers that exist in the branches of government, and the rights that citizens are guaranteed.	<b>Reading (Text, document, etc):</b> Students will read from the textbook weekly.  Students are responsible for short readings- 1 to 3 pages- throughout the semester to supplement the text.	<b>Written (Terms, questions, outlines, free response, etc):</b> Students will write short answer responses and short paragraphs based on readings.  Students will respond in writing to various prompts throughout the course.
<b>Grade Composition (How are grades determined?):</b> 25% Exams 15% Notebook Check (Reading Questions) 15% Work Ethic (Quizzes, etc) 30% Projects 15% Participation	<b>Skill Development (What skills are developed in this course and how?)</b> Analysis- students will be given situations in which they will be required to understand the powers and restrictions placed on the US Government.	<b>Sample Textbook Excerpt:</b> "In a democracy, the ability of the people to freely express their opinions is fundamental. Americans can express their opinions in many ways. They can write letters to newspapers. They can organize politically. They can vote. They can respond to opinion polls, including the exit polls discussed in the previous chapter. Public opinion clearly plays an important role in our political system, just as it does in any democracy.  President George W. Bush found out how important public opinion was when he announced that his administration was going to try terrorist suspects in military tribunals where the defendants would have few rights. Public opinion was so negative that bush felt forced to announce new rules for the tribunals that gave defendants more rights.  In contrast, Bush's war on terrorism received widespread support from Americans. This support bolstered the Bush administration's authority during a time in crisis. Indeed, Bush's approval ratings of slightly over 90% were the highest ever recorded in the history of the Gallup poll..."	
<b>Required Skills (What skills are necessary to be successful in this course?)</b>  Reading/Comprehension Work Ethic- Semester Course Basic Writing- Analytical	Citizenship- students will begin to understand how the US Government works. They will form opinions about government intervention in society, and have a greater understanding of why and how our government changes.		