

GOVERNMENT

TEXT

American Government: Principles and Practices
Reasoning with Democratic Values, Volume 2

PREREQUISITES

12th grade standing or permission of the teacher

OBJECTIVES

Explore, in depth, the following concepts of American government and how they impact each citizen's life:

- Constitutional supremacy
- Federalism
- Judicial review
- Separation of powers
- Limited power
- Checks and balances
- Individual rights vs. needs of the community

CONTENT

- Foundations of American government
- Civil rights and civil liberties
- Constitutional structure
- Due process and equal protection under the law
- Political parties
- Judicial system
- Voter behavior
- Electoral process
- Branches of government
- Foreign policy

SKILLS

- Develop student's ability to effectively and efficiently note taking skills on both oral and written information
- Develop student's critical thinking skills
- Develop student's ability to recognize, understand, and apply the concept of cause and effect
- Develop student's ability to distinguish between fact and opinion

- Develop student's abilities to read for main ideas and distinguish between significant and trivial details
- Develop student's ability to analyze primary and secondary sources

METHODS

Lecture and note taking, class discussion, internet research, video and textbook worksheets, assigned readings, and essay tests.

HOMEWORK

Homework consists of reading assignments, specific written assignments, and preparation for oral presentations, research papers, and preparation for tests.

GRADING/CREDIT

All assigned work must be submitted for full credit. Assignments submitted after the due date will result in the lowering of grade on the assignment. Grades are assigned on the basis of a point scale.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

Students may do essay tests as take home exams for non-college preparatory credit.

ABSENCES/TARDIES

Excessive absences and/or tardies will result in loss of credit.