
American Government Honors

Curriculum Guide

Scranton School District

Scranton, PA



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Curriculum Guide**

American Government Honors

Prerequisites:

- US History I 1790-1917
- US History II 1917 to present
- Be in compliance with the [SSD Honors and AP Criteria Policy](#)

American Government and Politics Honors is designed to be a survey course that studies the origins, development, structure, and functions of American national government. Topics include the constitutional framework; federalism; the three branches of government, including the bureaucracy; civil rights and liberties; political participation and behavior; and policy formation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system and how state and local government complements the federal government. Current political, legal, and governmental issues will be used to illustrate major points and refine the student's understanding. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills and essay writing. It is strongly recommended that students have Honors English placement. The course meets five class periods per week.

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Year-at-a-glance

Subject: American Government Honors	Grade Level : 11	Date Completed: 7/20/2016
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1st Quarter

Topic	Resources	Standards
Principles of Government Origins and forms of government	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.1.9.A CC.8.5.11-12.A
Constitutional Foundations Declaration of Independence Critical Period Creation and Ratification of the Constitution	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.1.12.C 5.3.12 B CC.8.5.11-12-D
The Constitution Six Principles Amendments	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.1.9.C 5.1.9.D 5.1.6 CC.8.5.11-12-D.C
Federalism	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.1.9.C 5.3.12.A CC.8.5.11-12-C CC.8.5.11-12-D

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2nd Quarter

Topic	Resources	Standards
Public Opinion & Political Socialization	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources Television News shows & CPSAN Internet Resources	5.3.9.E CC.8.5.11-12-F
Participation & Voting	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.9.F CC.8.5.6-8.G
Mass Media	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.12.J 5.3.6 .J CC.8.5.11-12.I
Nominations, Elections, & Campaigns	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.9.F CC.8.5.11-12.J

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3rd Quarter

Topic	Resources	Standards
Campaign Finance Regulations & Reforms	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.6.F 5.3.9.F CC.8.5.9-10.B
Political Parties	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.9.E CC.8.5.11-12.D
Interest Groups	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.12.D CC.8.5.11-12 D CC.8.5.11-12 C
Legislative Branch How a Bill Becomes a Law	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.12.C CC.8.5.11-12.D

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Executive Branch	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.2.12.D 5.3.3.B CC-8-5.11-12.F
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4th Quarter

Topic	Resources	Standards
The Bureaucracy	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.12. B CC.8.5.6-8.D
Judicial Branch	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.3 B CC.8.5.9-10.E
Equality and Civil Rights Civil Liberties	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.3.9.G 5.3.6.G CC.8.5.9-10.F
Public Policy and Taxes	Approved textbook Lesson/Unit plan Instructional content Educational Resources Assessment Various Internet Resources	5.1.12.J 5.3.9.I 5.3.12.I CC.8.5.6-8.H CC.8.5.11-12.I
Review and Final Exam		

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General Topic	Academic Standard(s)	Essential Knowledge, Skills & Vocabulary	Resources & Activities	Assessments	Suggested Time
<p>Principles of Government:</p> <p>Origins and forms of government</p>	<p>5.1.9.A 5.1.12.A 5.1.6.A CC.8.5.11-12.A</p>	<p>Define government and describe its basic powers</p> <p>Understand the purpose of governments</p> <p>Compare and contrast types of government</p> <p>Analyze the connections between democracy and the free enterprise system</p> <p>Identify the role of the internet in democracy</p> <p>Vocabulary: democracy, dictatorship, autocracy, mixed economy, state, sovereign</p>	<p>Approved text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Newspapers such as: <i>The New York Times</i> <i>Wall Street Journal</i> <i>USA Today</i> Magazines such as: Newsweek Time</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>

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<p>Constitutional Foundations:</p> <p>Declaration of Independence</p> <p>Critical Period</p> <p>Creation and Ratification of the Constitution</p>	<p>5.1.12.C 5.3.12 B CC.8.5.11-12-D</p>	<p>Explain the influence of English documents on formation of American colonies: Magna Carta, Petition of Right, English Bill of Rights</p> <p>Analyze the fundamental principles contained in the Declaration of Independence: John Locke Popular sovereignty</p> <p>Analyze how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the creation of the Constitution</p> <p>Summarize the major compromises at the Constitutional Convention and the effects of those compromises</p> <p>Identify the major arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution: federalists, anti-federalist</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p> <p>Debate rubric</p>	<p>10 days</p>
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<p>The Constitution:</p> <p>Six Principles of the Constitution</p> <p>Amendments</p>	<p>5.1.9.C 5.1.9.D 5.1.6.C CC.8.5.11-12-D.C</p>	<p>Describe how popular sovereignty, limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review, and federalism contribute to a unique American system of government.</p> <p>Explain the amendment process and explain how the process illustrates the principles of federalism and popular sovereignty.</p> <p>Describe the ways in which the Constitution has been altered by executive and judicial actions.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Political cartoons</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>
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<p>Federalism:</p> <p>Division of power</p> <p>Interstate relations</p>	<p>5.1.9.C 5.3.12.A CC.8.5.11-12-C CC.8.5.11-12-D</p>	<p>Define federalism and identify powers delegated to and denied to the National Government</p> <p>Describe powers reserved for and denied to the states</p> <p>Full Faith and Credit Clause, inherent powers, implied powers, expressed powers</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>6 days</p>
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<p>Political Parties:</p> <p>Two party system</p> <p>Third political parties</p>	<p>5.3.9.E CC.8.5.11-12-F</p>	<p>Political parties are essential to democratic government. In the United States, political parties have shaped the way the government works. Today, the major parties perform several important functions without which our government could not function.</p> <p>Minor parties provide alternatives to the positions of the major parties, and sometimes have affected particular elections and shaped public policies.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Approved text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>8 days</p>
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<p>Participation & Voting:</p> <p>Voter qualifications</p> <p>Suffrage and Civil Rights</p> <p>Voter behavior</p>	<p>5.3.9.F CC.8.5.6-8.G</p>	<p>Successful democratic government depends on the participation of its citizens through voting. The history of the United States has been marked by a steady expansion of the electorate through the elimination of restrictions on voting qualifications.</p> <p>All States have citizenship, residence, and age requirements for voting. Other voting qualifications differ from State to State. Some requirements—especially those that were used to disenfranchise certain groups—have been eliminated over time.</p>	<p>Approved text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>
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<p>Mass Media:</p> <p>Formulation of Public Opinion</p> <p>Measuring Public Opinion</p>	<p>5.3.12.J 5.3.6 .J CC.8.5.11-12.I</p>	<p>The American public gets information on public issues through several forms of mass media, especially through television. The media influence American politics by helping to set the public agenda and by playing a central role in electoral politics.</p> <p>All of us have opinions on a variety of issues, from school prayer to which political party should be in power. Several factors help shape our opinions. The two most important factors are family and education.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>8 days</p>
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<p>Nominations, Elections, & Campaigns</p>	<p>5.3.9.F CC.8.5.11-12.J</p>	<p>The nominating process narrows the field of possible candidates for office, and thus is an essential part of an election. The caucus and convention were important nominating methods in the past. The direct primary has largely replaced them. Self-announcement and petitions are also used today as nominating devices.</p> <p>The election process lies at the very heart of the democratic concept. It is impossible to picture a democratic society in which popular elections are not held.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>
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<p>Interest Groups:</p> <p>Nature of Interest groups</p> <p>Types of Interest groups</p> <p>Advantages and disadvantages</p>	<p>5.3.12.D CC.8.5.11-12 D CC.8.5.11-12 C</p>	<p>Interest groups are private organizations that try to persuade public officials to respond to the shared attitudes of their members. They stimulate interest in public affairs and serve as a vehicle for participation in the political process.</p> <p>Most interest groups take a balanced approach to affecting public policy. Some, on the other hand, focus on an individual issue and fight for this issue aggressively. Lobbyists use a variety of techniques to try to persuade policy makers to share an interest group's point of view.</p>	<p>Approved text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>8 days</p>
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<p>Legislative Branch:</p> <p>Structure and qualifications</p> <p>Powers of Congress</p> <p>How a Bill becomes a law</p>	<p>5.3.12.C CC.8.5.11-12.D</p>	<p>The Framers of the Constitution created a Congress with two bodies: a small Senate and a much larger House of Representatives. Each Congress since 1789 has met for a term of two years; those terms are now divided into two one-year sessions.</p> <p>The 435 members of the House of Representatives represent districts of roughly equal populations but very different characters. House members can serve for an unlimited number of two-year terms.</p> <p>Each State has two seats in the Senate, the smaller and more prestigious house of Congress. Senators are generally older and more experienced than representatives, and their long terms protect them from political pressure.</p> <p>Members of Congress must fill several roles as lawmakers, politicians, and servants of the voters. For their work, they receive fairly generous pay and benefits.</p> <p>A bill must go through reviews and committee hearings before coming to a vote on the House floor. Most bills never make it that far. Bills that are approved in the House move on to the Senate.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/ Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Maps</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>20 days</p>
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<p>Executive Branch:</p> <p>Presidential election & Powers of the presidency</p>	<p>5.2.12.D 5.3.3.B CC-8-5.11-12.F</p>	<p>From chief of state to commander in chief, the President is required to fill a number of different roles. These roles and the qualifications of the President are delineated in the United States Constitution.</p> <p>The complex process of selecting the President involves far more than simply counting votes. Understanding the Framers' plan helps us understand the presidential selection system as it exists today.</p> <p>Presidential primaries and party caucuses lead up to the Democratic and Republican national conventions. At these conventions, which take place every four years during the summer before the fall elections, each party officially selects its presidential candidate.</p> <p>The process of electing a President in the United States is clearly described in the Constitution; however, the process today deviates significantly from the Framers' original intent. Many citizens feel that the electoral college is flawed, and attempts to reform and streamline the process are heavily debated today.</p> <p>The President has enormous powers in giving orders, deciding how laws are carried out, and appointing and removing federal officials.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/ Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>20 days</p>
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		<p>The President shares various diplomatic and military powers with Congress, but in some areas the President's powers are almost unlimited.</p> <p>The Constitution gives the President strong legislative and judicial powers as a part of the system of checks and balances.</p>			
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<p>The Bureaucracy:</p> <p>Executive Departments & Civil Service</p>	<p>5.3.12. B CC.8.5.6-8.D</p>	<p>The Federal Government is the nation's largest employer. Nearly 2.7 million men and women work in the federal bureaucracy, and they do nearly all of the day-to-day work of the government.</p> <p>Some 150 executive branch agencies are not located within any of the executive departments. Some of them rival Cabinet departments in the size of their budgets, their functions, and the number of their employees.</p> <p>Most people who work for the Federal Government are members of the civil service. Over time, civil service reformers have worked to reduce corruption and political influence.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/ Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>
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<p>Judicial Branch & the Federal Court System</p>	<p>5.3.3 B CC.8.5.9-10.E</p>	<p>The Framers of the Constitution believed in the need for a national judicial system. The Constitution outlines the structure of the federal judiciary, the jurisdiction of the courts, and the functions of federal judges.</p> <p>The inferior courts, those beneath the Supreme Court, are the core of the federal judicial system, hearing nearly all federal law cases. They hear original jurisdiction cases and appeals, as well as criminal and civil cases.</p> <p>The Supreme Court, the only court specifically created by the Constitution, is the final authority on questions of federal law. It enjoys broad jurisdiction but usually limits its caseload to appeal involving constitutional questions and interpretations of federal law.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/ Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Debate</p> <p>Internet sites</p> <p>Supplemental readings</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>15 days</p>
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<p>Equality, Civil Rights &.Civil Liberties</p> <p>Due Process</p> <p>Discrimination in American society</p> <p>American Citizenship</p>	<p>5.3.9.G 5.3.6.G CC.8.5.9-10.F</p>	<p>The United States was established, in part, to ensure individual rights against the power of government. However, these rights can be restricted when they come into conflict with the rights of others. The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment prevents the States from abridging rights guaranteed in the Constitution's Bill of Rights.</p> <p>In observing due process of law, the government must act fairly and in accordance with established rules. Although the States possess the power to safeguard the well-being of their people through their police power, they must also observe due process rights. These rights include the right of privacy.</p> <p>Although the Declaration of Independence declares that "all men are created equal," our nation has often struggled to meet that ideal. Members of many ethnic minorities, as well as women face discrimination in many aspects of their lives.</p> <p>People can receive American citizenship through their parents or by undergoing a process of naturalization. Since immigration to the United States has surged, record numbers of immigrants are becoming American citizens.</p>	<p>Approved text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Videos</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>15 days</p>
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<p>Public Policy and Taxes</p>	<p>5.1.12.J 5.3.9.I 5.3.12.I CC.8.5.6-8.H CC.8.5.11-12.I</p>	<p>Article I of the Constitution and the 16th Amendment give Congress broad powers to set federal taxes. Today, Congress collects most of its revenue in the form of income taxes paid by individuals and corporations.</p> <p>When the government spends more money than it takes in, it must borrow money from investors. Over time, government borrowing has created a public debt of more than \$5 trillion.</p> <p>Federal spending has a huge effect on the economy. In the budget-making process, the President and Congress determine how the wide-ranging activities of the Federal Government will be financed.</p>	<p>Approved Text</p> <p>Teacher led discussions and presentations.</p> <p>Online assignments</p> <p>Assigned Readings and Papers</p> <p>Chapter Outlines</p> <p>Cooperative learning groups</p> <p>Newspapers/Magazines</p> <p>Television News shows</p> <p>Internet sites</p>	<p>Teacher prepared tests, quizzes, etc.</p> <p>Series available assessments online. (Optional)</p>	<p>10 days</p>
<p>Review and Final Exam</p>					<p>10 days</p>