

Course Information:

Topic:	American Government
Grade Level:	12
Length:	1 Semester
Period/s Per Day:	1 period, 50 minutes, Every Day

Essential Understanding:

The following United States Government course employs a well-balanced group of materials, assignments, and procedures based on one academic semester. The course will focus on major themes chosen and listed on the Havre Public Schools Curriculum

The class contains units on comparison of governments, the political spectrum, the Constitution, the functions of the separate branches of government, state and local governments, politics, interest groups, and problems of government.

Theme Samples:

1. Understanding the central ideas of the U.S. Constitution; how it distributes power; the role and importance of the law which it generates; and personal, political, and economic rights.
2. Understanding the origin and role of the judicial branch and how it applies to the federal, state, and local levels.
3. Understand the legislative branch as a holistic concept that incorporates formation of all public policy including law, school board policy, city ordinances, etc.
4. Examine the wide ranging nature of the executive branch spanning from qualities of leadership to day to day bureaucratic functioning.
5. Compare and Contrast world political and economic systems.
6. Analyze contemporary issues in the world today and current events.
7. Understand how participation in civic and political life is crucial to a healthy democracy that provides citizens with the ability to achieve public and private goals.

Course Objectives and Expectations:

Class will typically combine lecture and discussion, as well as independent, small, and large group work. Two large senior projects are also an integral part of the semester. These projects include: A Public Policy Log and two Public Meeting observation papers that are due at the end of the semester. Chapter readings will be preceded by tests as well as an interactive online discussion through Google Classroom.

Student Objectives:

- Students will identify key issues in their community and state and seek to solve those issues through legislative means.
- Students will characterize the different forms of government employed throughout the world.
- Students will evaluate the political spectrum and become informed on current issues.
- Students will study major themes in the U.S. Government and develop an applicable understanding of our contemporary experience.
- Students will create a greater awareness of both a world role of a major nation and the individual role of a responsible citizen.
- Students will reinforce study skills and be encouraged to undertake a fair degree of self-guided education.

Pacing and pertinent Montana Content Standard:

<u>Quarter 1</u>	Standard	Technology
(Ch.1) Foundations of Govt.	1,2,5	12.01
(Ch. 17) Participating in Govt.	1,3	12.01
(Ch. 2) Intro to American Government	4	12.01
(Ch. 3) The Constitution	3,4	12.01
<u>Quarter 2</u>		
(Ch. 15) Constitutional Freedoms	1,3	12.01
(Ch. 16) Rights of the Accused	1,3	12.01
(Ch. 20) Mass Media in the Digital Age	6	12.02
Public Policy Research	2,5	12.01,12.03

Course Outline and Assessments:

1. Unit I: Foundations of Government
 - a. Systems of Government
 - b. Types of Government
 - c. Economic Systems
 - i. Unit I Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
 - ii. Unit 1 Project: Create a State
2. Unit II: Participating in Government
 - a. Political Parties

- b. Party Ideology and ID
 - c. Party Organization and Candidates
 - i. Unit II Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
 - ii. Unit 2 Project: Political Cartoon
- 3. Unit III: Intro To American Government
 - a. Colonial Government
 - b. Independence
 - c. Articles of Confederation
 - i. Unit III Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
 - ii. Unit 3 Project: Founder's Research/Thomas Paine Writing
- 4. Unit IV: The Constitution
 - a. Structure
 - b. The Three Branches
 - c. Amendments
 - d. State Constitution
 - i. Unit IV Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
 - ii. Unit 4 Project: Creation of Moral Bill of Rights
- 5. Unit V: Constitutional Freedoms
 - a. Freedom of Speech
 - b. Freedom of Press, Assembly, Petition
 - c. Freedom of Religion
 - d. 14th Amendment
 - e. Equal Protection f.
2nd Amendment
 - i. Unit V Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
 - ii. Unit 5 Project: First Amendment Supreme Court Research
- 6. Unit VI: Constitutional Rights of the Accused
 - a. Rights Before Trial
 - b. Rights During Trial
 - c. Rights After Trial
 - i. Unit VI Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
- 7. Unit VII: Mass Media in the Digital Age
 - a. How Media Impacts our Government
 - b. Regulating Print and Broadcast Media
 - c. The Internet and Democracy
 - i. Unit VI Assessment- Multiple Choice and Essay Test/Vocab Quiz
- 8. Unit VIII: Public Policy Research
 - a. Review of Legislation
 - b. Legislative Process
 - c. ID Current Issues

Timeline:

Title	Approximate Timeline
Unit I: Foundations of Government	3 Weeks
Unit II: Participating In Government	2 Weeks
Unit III: Intro to American Government	2 Weeks
Unit IV: The Constitution	2 Weeks
Unit V: Constitutional Freedoms	3 Weeks
Unit VI: Constitutional Rights of the Accused	2 Weeks
Unit VII: Mass Media in the Digital Age	2 Weeks
Unit VIII: Public Policy Research	2 Weeks
Semester Final Prep	1 Week

Resources:

HPS Technology Curriculum :

<https://www.blueponyk12.com/cms/lib/MT01001096/Centricity/Domain/12/HAVRE%20PUBLIC%20SCHOOLS%20TECHNOLOGY%20CURRICULUM.pdf>

American Government Textbook

General One File Resource

YouTube

Khan Academy