



# World Geography Instructional Plan: Fall Semester

## Course Overview

Welcome to the US Government.

## Contact Information

Teacher Name: Stephen Stoner

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## Classroom Expectations

**Be Respectful** – Listen. Use kind words. Treat everyone and everything with care.

**Be Responsible** – Be on time. Bring what you need. Start bellwork immediately.

**Follow Directions** – Do what's asked the first time. Raise your hand to speak.

**Stay Focused** – Sit where you're supposed to. Keep your area tidy. Participate.

**Stay Positive** – Try your best. Learn from mistakes. Keep growing.

## Attendance Policy & Its Importance

### Attendance Is the First Step to Success

Coming to school every day ensures every student gets the instruction, connections, and support they need to learn, belong, and grow. Missing just a few days can create gaps in learning—but showing up builds confidence, community, and a path toward long-term achievement.

**Please notify the school if your child will be absent.** Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

### TEKS

### United States Government TEKS Standards

### Foundational Principles

- **Understand how constitutional government—expressed through the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and U.S. The Constitution—was influenced by ideas like natural law, social contract theory, divine rights, and the right to resist unjust authority.**
- **Trace the contributions of individuals whose philosophies shaped U.S. governance, including Moses, William Blackstone, John Locke, and Montesquieu.**



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## Founders & Founding Documents

- Examine the contributions of Founding Fathers such as John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Jay, George Mason, Roger Sherman, and James Wilson.
- Explore key debates and compromises made during the crafting of foundational documents.

## Political Influence

- Understand how individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media affect public policy and bring about political change.

## Government Structure & Functions

- Analyze the structure and functions of the U.S. government as established by the Constitution and the role and responsibilities of federal institutions (e.g., national defense).

## Citizenship & Civil Rights

- Examine the rights safeguarded by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, including key Supreme Court interpretations in landmark cases such as *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Texas v. Johnson*, *Mapp v. Ohio*, *Engel v. Vitale*, and *Schenck v. United States*.
- Explore the importance of due process in protecting individual liberties and limiting government powers.
- Analyze historical and modern examples of civic movements and how they influenced political change.
- Consider how different perspectives from political parties and interest groups shape U.S. policy.

## Cultural Contexts & Policy Impacts

- Evaluate the effects of government policies or court decisions on various cultural groups, such as through the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, *Hernandez v. Texas*, or *Grutter v. Bollinger*

## Course Resources

- US Government Student Edition, McGraw Hill

## Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:



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[Student Handbook](#)

## School-wide System of Communication

Families can reach out by email, phone, or messages during school hours. We are to hear, to listen, to answer questions, and support you both.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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**Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.**

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in [grade level or course]. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_