AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HONORS

CREDIT HOURS: 0.5  COURSE LENGTH: 1 Semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to enable students to gain an understanding of American government and political behavior that is essential for effective citizenship and active involvement in a democratic American society. Students will learn about the interrelationship between American government and the American economic system.

The honors level course requires students to utilize higher order thinking skills such as analysis and synthesis, while completing more rigorous assignments. In addition, more emphasis is placed on research mastery and project based learning.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

US History

UNIT OUTLINE

Unit I: Foundations of Government

This unit describes the fundamental principles and documents that act as the foundation for U.S. government. Students will learn the origins of and theories behind our government system. Students also will learn the significance of key documents in U.S. government, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Federalist Papers, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Unit II: The Legislative and Executive Branches

This unit describes the role of governmental bodies, such as Congress and the President. Students will learn about Federalism and Congressional powers, limitations, and procedures. Students also will learn about the powers and functions of the Executive Branch, and the impact of scandals on this branch of government.
Unit III: The Courts, Lobbyists, and Elections

This unit describes the Judicial Branch and the role of courts in U.S. government. It also details the functions of political parties, interest groups, political campaigns, and the media. Students will learn about the Electoral College, Congressional elections, and the significance of the voting process in America.

Unit IV: Civil Rights, Policy, and Local Governments

This unit describes the rights granted to U.S. citizens, the importance of the civil rights movement, and the role of policy in America. Students will learn about the structure and functions of both state and local governments.