

APEX US Government and Politics

Class Description:

This class meets the graduation requirement for the State of Washington and Kennewick School District.

U.S. Government and Politics offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that uses the perspective of political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the U.S. Government.

Beginning with basic theories of government, moving to the Declaration of Independence, and continuing to the present day, the course explores the relationship between individual Americans and the governing bodies. It covers the political culture of the country and gains insight into the challenges faced by presidents, congressional representatives, and other political activists. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court.

U.S. Government and Politics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. Students read annotated primary documents and apply those documents to the course content.

The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Learning Materials:

APEX is a complete curriculum, other than a computer a student does not need any additional materials.

Learning Goals:

This course meets at least one GLE/EALR and is a graduation requirement.

Unit 1: Principles of Government

- Lesson 1: The Purposes and Origins of Government
- Lesson 2: Power and Government
- Lesson 3: Types of Government
- Lesson 4: Principles of Government Wrap-Up
- Lesson 5: Diagnostic

Unit 2: Constitutional Underpinnings

- Lesson 1: Origins of American Government
- Lesson 2: Creating and Ratifying the Constitution
- Lesson 3: The Constitution
- Lesson 4: Federalism

Lesson 5: Constitutional Underpinnings Wrap-Up
Lesson 6: Diagnostic

Unit 3: Institutions of Government

Lesson 1: The National Government Lesson 2: Congress
Lesson 3: The Presidency
Lesson 4: The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy
Lesson 5: The Judicial Branch
Lesson 6: Institutions of Government Wrap-Up
Lesson 7: Diagnostic

Unit 4: Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Lesson 1: Political Participation
Lesson 2: Political Opinions
Lesson 3: America's Political Landscape
Lesson 4: Political Beliefs and Behaviors Wrap-Up
Lesson 5: Diagnostic

Unit 5: Linkage Institutions

Lesson 1: Political Parties
Lesson 2: Elections and Campaigns
Lesson 3: Interest Groups
Lesson 4: The Media
Lesson 5: Linkage Institutions Wrap-Up
Lesson 6: Diagnostic

Unit 6: The Art of Policymaking

Lesson 1: Understanding Policymaking
Lesson 2: Policy Realms
Lesson 3: Policymaking at the State and Local Levels
Lesson 4: The Art of Policymaking Wrap-Up
Lesson 5: Diagnostic

Unit 7: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Lesson 1: American Rights
Lesson 2: First Amendment Liberties
Lesson 3: Privacy Rights and Rights of Due Process
Lesson 4: Rights for Minorities and Women
Lesson 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Wrap-Up
Lesson 6: Diagnostic

Unit 8: U.S. Government and Politics Review and Exam

Lesson 1: U.S. Government and Politics

The content is based on standards from the National Council for History Education (1997), the National Center for History in the Schools (1996), and the National Council for Social Studies (1994) and is aligned to state standards.

Upon the completion of this course with a passing grade, student will earn a .5 credit.

Learning Activities:

Student will complete Study, Discussion, Activity and a Quiz for each section in a unit and then will complete a unit exam. Activities are based on a student earning a min. of 70% or better in each activity.

Evaluation:

On each month's progress reports, student will report completion and mastery of learning activities designed to reach specific goals within the course description.

In addition, students will keep portfolios of their written work, quizzes, and tests to show their consultants and/or HQ teachers.

Every month progress will be determined by the HQ teacher of this course based on the question: "Will the student master his performance objectives by the end of the course?" The HQ teacher will take into consideration ALL factors (including student life situation, effort, attitude, etc.) when making this professional judgment.

Each month, the student will be expected to master approximately 10% of the yearly goals for this class (or 20% of semester goals), with all of the goals being met by the end of the year (or semester.) The mastery of any one goal may be an on-going process and some goals may overlap or be difficult to measure. Evaluation of progress toward the mastery of the goals will be based on monthly completion (or progress toward completion) of the learning activities that are designed to provide the means to achieving the goals of the learning plan. With that said, monthly progress can still be marked satisfactory based on the professional judgment of the teacher that the student will complete the goals of the course.