

Civics

Prerequisites: 12th grade enrollment

Level: 12th grade

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

American government is a required senior social science class that discusses the influences, creation, and development of the United States government.

Course Outline

Foundations of American Government

The Legislative Branch

The Executive Branch

The Judicial Branch

Participating in Government

State of Illinois Constitution

Flag Display

Teaching Methods

This class is taught through lecture, discussions, guided readings, analyzing primary source documents, projects, presentations, and Supreme Court case studies.

Assessment

- Throughout the semester students will have 3 written response tests comprised of identifications and essays. Each test will be worth 100 points. Study guides will be given. Students will take a comprehensive test at the end of the semester over the United States and the State of Illinois Constitutions and how our government has been influenced throughout history. The test will be worth 120 points. Students must pass this test to graduate.
- Depending on student performance, he or she will take a semester exam at the end of the course. This grade will be 20% of the student's semester grade.
- Students will have four formal writing assignments. The first paper topic discusses how the writing of the U.S. Constitution was influenced by various scholars. The second paper topic is on the separation of church and state. The final two writing assignments will be accompanied with a presentation. Each student will present to the class on a current event he or she researched and will provide a personal reflection to the event chosen. The student will present once per semester. The current event must be approved by the teacher before presenting.
- All other assessments will be given through quizzes, partner and/or group work, Supreme Court case studies and participation.

Texts

We will use the United States government: Democracy in Action 2010 edition by McGraw-Hill Companies.