



Reseda High School

Police Academy Magnet

Honors American Government

Instructor: V. Garcia

Welcome to Honors American Government and to what I hope will be the beginning of a wonderful culmination of your high school career. Below you will find the requirements and course description. This class is a survey course designed to look at the government as a whole and then each part specific.

Government is a semester course designed for students who plan on attending college/university after high school. This course will provide the skills necessary to successfully analyze political issues and understand why the government runs as it does, as well as give them the skill set required for success in college.

Course Description:

Honors American Government will cover the foundations of our governmental system to the intricacies of each branch to the individual responsibilities and guarantee of the citizen. There will also be an interwoven law enforcement theme with special emphasis on the development of laws, law enforcement, police departments and their founding. Below you will find all of the essential information in regards to the grading and assignment policy, attendance policy, materials needed and unit information.

Course Outline:

Listed Below you will find the themes that we will continuously examine throughout the course. They will help to bring continuity to the course and help make relative connections for the students.

1. Impact of interaction among and within major societies.
2. Impact of technology, economics, demography on people and the environment.
3. Systems of social structure and gender structures.
4. Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments.
5. Changes in functions and structures of state and in attitude toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state.

6. Law enforcement around the world and the reasons that they exist.

Unit Outline:

- I. Foundations of Democracy (C.S.S. 12.1.1,3,4,6; 12.2.1)
 - i. Principals of Government
 1. Government and the State
 2. Forms of Government
 3. Basic Concepts of Democracy
 - ii. Origins of American Government
 1. The Political Beginning
 2. The Coming of Independence
 - a. The Declaration of Independence
 3. The Critical Period
 4. Creating the Constitution
 5. Ratifying the Constitution
 - iii. The Constitution
 1. The Six Basic Principals
 2. Formal Amendment
 3. Constitutional Change by Other Means
 - iv. Federalism
 1. Federalism: The Division of Power
 2. The National Government and the 50 States
 3. Interstate Relations
 - a. *ATF and the FBI*

- II. The Judicial Branch (C.S.S. 12.2.1; 12.4.5,6; 12.5.1,3,4)
 - i. The Federal Court System
 1. The National Judiciary
 2. The Supreme Courts
 - ii. Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms
 1. The Unalienable Rights
 2. Freedom of Religion
 3. Freedom of Speech and Press
 4. Freedom of Assembly and Petition
 - a. *The Democratic Convention of 1968 - Chicago*
 - iii. Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights
 1. Due Process of Law
 - a. *Miranda v. Arizona*
 2. Freedom of Security of the Person
 3. Rights of the Accused

- 4. Punishment
 - a. *Juvenile v. Adult Crime and Punishment*
 - b. *3 Strikes Laws*
 - iv. Civil Rights: Equal Justice Under Law
 - 1. Diversity and Discrimination in American Society
 - 2. Equality Before the Law
- III. The Legislative Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.1,2,3; 12.7.3,4)
 - i. Congress
 - 1. The National Legislature
 - 2. The House of Representatives
 - 3. The Senate
 - 4. The Members of Congress
 - ii. Powers of Congress
 - 1. The Scope of Congressional Powers
 - 2. Expressed Powers
 - a. *Border Patrol*
 - b. *ATF*
 - c. *FBI*
 - 3. The Implied Powers
 - 4. The Nonlegislative Power
 - iii. Congress in Action
 - 1. How A Bill Becomes a Law: The House
 - 2. The Bill in the Senate
- IV. The Executive Branch (C.S.S. 12.4.4; 12.7.2)
 - i. The Presidency
 - 1. The President's Job Description
 - 2. Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency
 - 3. Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan
 - 4. The Election
 - ii. The Presidency in Action
 - 1. The Growth of Presidential Powers
 - 2. The President's Executive Powers
 - 3. Military Powers
 - 4. Legislative and Judicial Powers
 - iii. Financing Government
 - 1. Taxes
 - 2. Nontax Revenues and Borrowing
 - 3. Spending and the Budget
 - iv. Foreign Policy and National Defense
 - 1. Foreign Affairs and National Policy
 - a. *Drug Trafficking*

activity, you will not receive points for the day. In order to be successful, you must attend class on a regular basis.

Reseda High School ESLRS

In my class, students do much of their work in cooperative learning groups. I believe this type of activity helps students to learn how science is really done helps students achieve the Reseda High School ESLRS:

- I. Effective Communicators
- II. Critical Thinkers
- III. Self-Directed Learners
- IV. Responsible Citizens
- V. Healthy Individuals