American Government

36 Week Course

Louisville High School

Mr. Widder

Course Description:

This course is designed to give us the knowledge of local, state, and national government in the United States. We will take a look at political parties and how they affect our government today. In depth, we will study many historical documents including the Declaration of Independence (The birth of the United States) as well as the Constitution and how it paves the road in which we walk daily. As we embark on our journey of adulthood we will plan to become active participants in our government so we can contribute to the high standard of living that Americans are so fortunate to have obtained.

Course Objectives/Essential Questions/Topics:

* How does the principle of “limited government” have applicability to the 21st century?
* How has constitutional government in the United States changed over time?
* What role do political parties, interest groups, and the media play in our perception of government today?
* The United States Constitution
* The Declaration of Independence
* The Bill of Rights
* What are the main purposes of separation of powers?
* What are the main differences between local, state, and national government?
* What can we do as citizens of the United States to actively participate?
* How exactly do elections work?
* Supreme Court cases that have influenced how our government systems function.

Grade (Broken down into each unit):

2-5 Vocabulary Study Guides (Per chapter in unit)

2-5 Vocabulary Quizzes (Per chapter in unit)

1 Reading Assignment

1 Writing Assignment

1 Application Assignment

1 Exam

There may be other small assignments within the unit that are subject to change. There may also be a few projects throughout the year but there will not be a project for each unit.

Each assignment is due on the date provided however if you are absent then you will receive an extra day to turn in the assignment for the number of days that you have missed. If assignments are turned in late, the highest score possible is 50%. If the assignment is over 1 week late, it will be permanently a “0” in the grade book.