

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** American Government  
**Course Number:** 00117  
**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** American Government is designed to provide students the background they need to participate meaningfully in our democratic system. Students will examine the workings of all three levels of American Government—federal, state, and local—and how citizens get involved at each level. Units to be studied include the basic foundations of government (including the U.S. Constitution), choosing government leaders, the separation of powers in government, and intergovernmental relations. Part of this course is to help students to become active participants in our democratic system and how government will affect them the rest of their lives. A variety of media and activities will be used to achieve course objectives.

**Suggested Grade Level:** Grade 12

**Length of Course:** One Semester

**Units of Credit:** .5

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:**

CSPG 59: Social Studies

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](#)

**Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department:**  Yes  No

**WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Course Level:** Academic

**Mark Types:** Check all that apply.

F – Final Average  MP – Marking Period  EXM – Final Exam

**GPA Type:**  GPAEL-GPA Elementary  GPAML-GPA for Middle Level  NHS-National Honor Society

UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average  GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

**State Course Code:** 04160

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](#), download the Excel file for SCED, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and chose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

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**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:**

**Title:** United States Government  
**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
**ISBN #:** 9780544742680  
**Copyright Date:** 2018  
**WCSD Board Approval Date:** 04/12/2021

**Supplemental Materials:** DBQ Project Materials; Choices Program

**Curriculum Document**

**WCSD Board Approval:**

**Date Finalized:** 5/14/2021  
**Date Approved:** 6/14/2021  
**Implementation Year:** 2021-2022

**SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

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**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT, CONCEPTS, AND SKILLS**

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Month Taught and Assessed for Mastery</b>
Examine government and the powers every government holds.	5.1.12A-M	September
List the characteristics of the state and consider theories on the origin of the state.	5.1.12A-M	September
Debate the purpose of American Government.	5.1.12A-M	September
Illustrate the three ways government is classified.	5.1.12A-M	September
Compare and contrast different forms of governments.	5.1.12A-M	September
Identify the foundations of democracy.	5.1.12A-M	September
Discuss the responsibilities and duties of citizenship.	5.2.12A-G	September
Analyze the influence of key foundational government documents such as the Magna Carta, Petition of Right and English Bill of Rights on American ideas about government and freedom.	5.1.12A-M	September
Explain and identify key historical events in the founding of our country such as the First and Second Continental Congress, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitutional Convention.	5.1.12A-M	September
Examine and define key aspects of the Constitution such as its basic principles, parts, and amending the Constitution.	5.1.12A-M	September
Compare and contrast the positions of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.	5.1.12A-M	September
Illustrate the history of political parties in the United States.	5.3.12E	October
Compare and contrast the five main functions of political parties by categorizing examples of political actions under each function.	5.3.12E	October
Explain the importance of minor parties.	5.3.12E	October
Describe and analyze the role and importance of political party organization at the local, state and national levels.	5.3.12E	October
Compare and contrast the House and Senate in terms of their roles, size, terms and qualifications.	5.3.12A-K	October
Define expressed powers of Congress	5.3.12A-K	October
Illustrate the process of how a bill becomes a law.	5.3.12A-K	October
Describe the many roles of the President.	5.3.12A-K	November
Explain how Article two establishes and vests power in the Executive branch.	5.3.12A-K	November

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Debate the reasons for the growth of Presidential power.	5.3.12A-K	November
Explain the structure of the federal court system.	5.3.12A-K	December
Define and give examples of the concept of Judicial review.	5.3.12A-K	December
Explain and give examples of due process.	5.3.12A-K	December
Analyze key Supreme Court decisions.	5.3.12A-K	December
Examine the role of the governor and state legislature.	5.3.12A-K	January
Compare and contrast criminal and civil law.	5.3.12A-K	January
Describe the structure of local and county government.	5.3.12A-K	January
Explain the services state and local governments provide.	5.3.12A-K	January

**ASSESSMENTS**

**PSSA Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

**Effective formative assessments for this course include:** Pre-Assessments of prior knowledge (e.g. entrance cards or KWL chart), Bell ringers/Problems of the Day(PODs), discussions, Teacher observation/Questioning, Graphic organizers (e.g. Venn diagrams, word mapping, webbing, KWL chart, etc.), Summarizing, Retelling, Notetaking, Problem-based learning modules, Oral presentations, Outlining, Journaling, Student presentations/projects. Open-ended response

**Summative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

**Effective summative assessments for this course include:** Essays, Open-Ended Responses, Projects, Quizzes/tests, Student presentations, Portfolios