



## Syllabus for American Government College Prep

Welcome to SS021: American Government!

Please read the information in this syllabus before proceeding to the course materials.

**Credits:** 0.5 credit hour

**Prerequisite:** None

## Instructional Team

### Teacher Contact Information

P.T. Barrett  
PBarrett@jmhs.com

Our Academic Advisors are also available to help you when you need it. They are trained to provide tutoring in all subjects or answer your questions about the course or program.

Phone: 1-800-224-7234

Hours: 8:30AM – 8:30PM EST Monday-Friday

## Textbook

McClenaghan, W., (2010). *Prentice McGruder's American Government* (1<sup>st</sup> ed., Vol. 1). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

## Course Description

This course explores the structure, dynamics and processes of the American system of government, providing a comprehensive introduction to the origins and development of ideas and institutions that influence the contemporary political milieu. The course examines the development and composition of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, three branches of government, political parties, and interest groups within the framework of the historical, economic and social context.

Assessment of student learning occurs through multiple choice lesson exams and a short answer/essay type final examination.

## Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the founding principles, structure and operation of the American government.
- Analyze how the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence are reflected in the laws and structure of the American government.



- Explain how the organizing principles, structures and decision making processes at the national government level are shaped and influenced by political parties, pressure groups and key individuals.
- Explain how the broad collection of voluntary, trade, political, special interest, religious and social associations influence the policies and practices of the American government.
- Describe how the separation of powers reflects fundamental values expressed in the Declaration of Independence and how that separation protects vital citizen rights.
- Interpret the principles, operation and outcomes of the American political system in the global context.

## Course Lessons

The following lessons are covered in SS021: American Government

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Read/Submit</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Lesson 1	Chapter 1: Section 1 (pages 4 – 11); Section 2 (pages 12 – 18); Section 3 (pages 20 – 24)  Chapter 2: Section 2 (pages 36 – 42); Section 3 (pages 48 – 51); Section 4 (pages 52 – 58)  Chapter 3: Section 1 (pages 68 – 75); Section 2 (pages 78 – 83)  Chapter 4: Section 1 (pages 94 – 102); Section 3 (pages 111 – 114).  Exam 1	Principles of government, origins of American government, the Constitution, Federalism
Lesson 2	Chapter 5: Section 1 (pages 122 – 129); Section 2 (pages 130 – 136); Section 4 (pages 142 – 146)  Chapter 6: Section 1 (pages 152 – 155); Section 2 (pages 156 – 163); Section 3 (pages 164 - 168); Section 4 (pages 170 – 178)  Chapter 7: Section 1 (pages 184 – 192); Section 2 (pages 193 – 199); Section 3 (pages 200 – 208)	Political parties, voters and voter behavior, the electoral process, mass media and public opinion, interest groups



Chapter 8: Section 1 (pages 214 – 219); Section 2 (pages 220 – 226); Section 3 (pages 228 – 236)

Chapter 9: Section 1 (pages 242 – 246); Section 2 (pages 247 – 252); Section 3 (pages 254 – 260).

Exam 2.

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Lesson 3      Chapter 10: Section 1 (pages 268 – 271); Section 2 (pages 273 – 280); Section 3 (pages 281 – 290)      Congress, powers of Congress, Congress in action

Chapter 11: Section 1 (pages 296 – 303); Section 2 (pages 304 – 309); Section 3 (pages 312 - 316)

Chapter 12: Section 1 (pages 330 – 337); Section 3 (pages 343 – 349); Section 4 (pages 351 – 356)

Exam 3.

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Lesson 4      Chapter 13: Section 1 (pages 364 – 368); Section 2 (pages 370 – 373); Section 5 (pages 386 – 394)      The Presidency, the Presidency in action, bureaucracy, financing government, foreign policy and national defense

Chapter 14: Section 2 (pages 405 – 409); Section 3 (pages 412 – 416); Section 4 (pages 417 – 420)

Chapter 15: Section 1 (pages 426 – 430); Section 2 (pages 431 – 434); Section 3 (pages 435 – 440)

Chapter 16: Section 1 (pages 456 – 462); Section 2 (pages 463 – 466); Section3 (pages 467 – 471)

Chapter 17: Section 1 (pages 482 – 487); Section 2 (pages 488 – 494)

Exam 4.

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Lesson 5 Chapter 18: Section 1 (pages 520 – 526); Section 3 (pages 532 – 537) The Federal Court system, civil liberties, civil rights

Chapter 19: Section 1 (pages 546 – 550); Section 2 (pages 551 – 558); Section 3 (pages 559 – 567); Section 4 (pages 569 – 572)

Chapter 20: Section 1 (pages 578 – 582); Section 2 (pages 583 – 590); Section 3 (pages 592 – 599)

Chapter 21: Section 2 (pages 618 – 623); Section 4 (pages 632 – 638)

Exam 5.

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Lesson 6 Chapter 22: Section 1 (pages 646 – 651); Section 3 (pages 661 – 665); Section 4 (pages 666 – 672) Comparative Political Systems, comparative economic systems, governing the states, local government and finance

Chapter 23: Section 1 (pages 678 – 684); Section 2 (pages 685 – 691); Section 3 (pages 693 – 700)

Chapter 24: Section 2 (pages 714 – 719); Section 3 ; (pages 720 – 726)

Chapter 25: Section 2 (pages 749 – 755); Section 3 (pages 756 – 760); Section 4 (pages 761 – 766)

Exam 6.

Final Exam.

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