

Course Description

10th Grade

American Government

Philosophy Statement: The study of the American Government and Geography is an interesting study of our countries foundations and the operation of government for the people and by the people. As Americans of the present, your students are being invited to view Americans of the past in a way that admires their determination, analyzes their choices and become inspired by God's hand in the development of this country and democracy. The students will actively participate in the study through projects, activities, debates, lecture notes and dramatizations. Students will also practice map skills and explore the geography of our global neighbors.

Course Objective: The students will explore and experience the facets of American Government and Economics using reading, research, discussion and projects

Materials: *American Government* 4th Edition (2020 BJU Press)

Time Allotment:

- 45 minutes on the regular class day
- 1 ½ hours on two block schedule days

Biblical Integration:

Course Content

- Weeks 1-9
 - Chapter 1 The Only Sure Foundation
 - I can explain the origin of government as a God-ordained institution
 - I can evaluate anarchy based on biblical teaching regarding human depravity
 - I can explain righteousness and justice
 - I can explain government's primary biblical obligations
 - I can evaluate government policies and actions regarding punishing unrighteousness and rewarding righteousness
 - I can assess the importance of praying for governmental officials
 - I can analyze the ways that citizens may participate in government
 - I can evaluate political issues in light of biblical commands about citizens' responsibility to submit to government
 - I can identify way sto a good testimony to government officials
 - Chapter 2 Forms of Government
 - I can compare systems of government
 - I can explain the relationship between the different level of government
 - I can contrast the parliamentary and presidential means of choosing an executive
 - I can describe the different responsibilities accorded to the national and state governments in the US
 - I can trace the development of democratic principles
 - I can identify the Founding Fathers' contributions to democratic government
 - I can differentiate between democracy and republic
 - I can describe the strengths and potential weaknesses of majority rule
 - I can explain the principles of equality and liberty
 - I can analyze the roles of compromise and individual worth in a democratic system
 - I can explain why opportunity and education are important in democracy
 - I can defend the ida that moral responsibility is necessary for the health and strength of democracy

- Chapter 3 Christianity, Church, and Government
 - I can survey Christian involvement in government during the Roman Empire, Reformation, and in early America
 - I can explain John Locke's view of religious toleration
 - I can define pluralism
 - I can defend the biblical view of the relationship between church and state against contrary viewpoints
 - I can explain the role of ideologies and a Christian worldview in the formulation of political ideas
 - I can determine a biblical view of Christian involvement in political issues
 - I can propose way that a Christian may react to the problems created by pluralism
- Chapter 4 Constitutional Beginnings
 - I can identify the factors that influence American colonial governments
 - I can analyze the processes by which the colonies sought to address their grievances with England
 - I can assess the Articles of Confederation's weaknesses
 - I can outline three major compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention
 - I can analyze the role of political compromise in a free society
 - I can analyze the arguments presented by the Federalists and the anti-Federalists
 - I can explain the significance of the ratification of the constitution
- Chapter 5 The United State Constitution
 - I can explain the effect of the Founding Fathers' view of human nature on the writing of the Constitution
 - I can evaluate different approaches to interpreting the Constitution
 - I can relate foundational principles of American government to biblical principles
 - I can identify the three branches of government and explain their major functions
 - I can explain the purpose and significance of the Bill of Rights
 - I can evaluate the impact of constitutional amendments on the US government
- Chapter 6 Federalism
 - I can define federalism
 - I can differentiate between delegated powers, enumerated powers, implied powers, and reserved powers
 - I can explain the interaction between state and federal governments
 - I can describe the system of dual federalism that once existed in the US
 - I can identify the significant events that increased the powers of the federal government
 - I can evaluate different forms of federalism from a biblical worldview
 - I can distinguish between the various forms of federal grants
 - I can explain revenue sharing
 - I can identify the factors that maintain the distinctions between state and national government
 - I can describe problems that result from federal funding to state governments
- Weeks 10-18
 - Chapter 7 State and Local Governments
 - I can explain the constitutional basis for states powers
 - I can delineate the responsibilities of state government
 - I can outline the responsibilities of the different branches of government
 - I can list the state sources of revenue
 - I can identify the various forms of county and municipal government
 - I can explain the role of special district in local government

- I can chart and explain typical political party organization on the state and local levels
 - I can explain election and voting processes used in state and local politics
 - I can identify the types of interstate relationships
 - I can describe the interaction of federal and state governments
- Chapter 8 The structure of Congress
 - I can describe Congress's bicameral structure
 - I can explain how the House and Senate officials lead their respective chambers
 - I can evaluate controversial issues relating to members of Congress
 - I can summarize the procedures regarding congressional sessions
 - I can analyze the purposes and types of congressional committees
 - I can explain the processes for passing bills in the United States Congress
- Chapter 9 The Powers of Congress
 - I can delineate the powers specifically given to Congress in the Constitution
 - I can relate the powers of Congress to the biblical purpose of government
 - I can explain the implied powers of Congress
 - I can explain the non legislative powers of Congress
 - I can relate the implied and non legislative powers of Congress to the biblical purposes of government
 - I can explain the powers that Constitution denies to Congress
 - I can cite various reasons Congress is criticized
 - I can evaluate the criticisms Congress commonly receives
- Chapter 10 The Road to the White House
 - I can explain the constitutional requirements and desired qualities for the office of president
 - I can outline common career paths for the presidency
 - I can describe the origins, purposes, forms, course of presidential primaries
 - I can summarize the preparations, participants, and procedures of national party conventions
 - I can evaluate some influences on campaign strategies
 - I can analyze the role of debates in presidential campaigns
 - I can explain the importance of Election Day
 - I can evaluate the role of the Electoral College
 - I can explain the significance of the orderly transitions that occur after American elections
 - I can describe the presidential inauguration procedures
- Chapter 11 America's Highest Office
 - I can analyze six major areas of presidential responsibility
 - I can describe constitutional restrictions places on the president
 - I can explain additional powers given to the president
 - I can outline the responsibilities of the vice president
 - I can explain the origin and role of the Executive Office of the President (EOP)
 - I can describe the cabinet departments and the other administrative agencies
 - I can identify pitfalls of the presidency
 - I can appraise the factors that influence assessment of presidents
- Chapter 12 The Federal Bureaucracy
 - I can explain the features and benefits of bureaucracy
 - I can evaluate the factors that have contributed to the growth of bureaucracy in our government
 - I can outline how the federal bureaucracy functions
 - I can summarize why the federal bureaucracy has been called the fourth branch of the government

- I can describe ways the bureaucracy is held accountable for its actions
- I can delineate the problems created by a powerful bureaucracy
- I can describe some distinctive and achievements of American bureaucracy