

American Government
Social Studies Department
One Semester: .5 credits

1. Prerequisites:

1.1. Every senior must take American Government if they are not taking A.P. Government. Students are required to pass in order to graduate from Detroit Catholic Central High School.

2. Text Books:

2.1. [Magruder's American Government](#). McClenaghan, William A.

2.2. [Empire](#). Laxer, James

2.2.1. You will given a quiz on this book during class. It is your book to keep, I encourage you to underline/highlight and take notes while reading the book. You will be given questions to help guide your understanding as you read.

3. Course Goals and Objectives:

3.1. This course is devoted to gaining an understanding of the origins and foundations of our American Government. The course will also go beyond our borders and look at other governmental and economic systems throughout the world today. An understanding of current events and how they impact both us and our government is an important asset to this class. This course makes use of digitized primary and secondary sources to supplement and enhance instruction.

4. Course Description:

4.1. Unit 1: Intro to Government and Economic Systems

4.1.1. Chapter 1: Principles of Government

4.1.2. Chapter 23: Comparative Economic Systems

4.1.2.1. Unit one will look at the origins and the forms of government. In addition, Unit 1 will look at and break down three core economic theories: capitalism, socialism and communism.

4.2. Unit 2: Origins of American Government

4.2.1. Chapter 2: Origins of American Government

4.2.2. Chapter 3: The Constitution

4.2.2.1. Unit two will look at the major events that led to the formation of the American Government. The chapter will look at how European traditions have shaped our government and how America's first experiences shaped the government. In addition this unit will look at the organization and structure of the Constitution.

4.3. Unit 3: Federalism

4.3.1. Chapter 4: Federalism

4.3.1.1. Unit three will look at the relationship between the national and the state governments in the United States. Students will apply the theory of Federalism when looking at Hurricane Katrina's impact on the city of New Orleans and its residents.