

Phoenix Christian High School SST400 American Government Course Scope & Sequence (Rev. 2011-2012)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Government is an opportunity for the student to examine the nature and distribution of authority, and analyze the American political structure. Students will understand the ideals, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, the content sources, and the history of the founding documents of the United States, with particular emphasis on the Constitution and how government functions at the local, state, national, and international levels.

METHODS/ TYPES OF BIBLICAL INTEGRATION:

At every opportunity, scripture will be integrated into lessons. The Biblical stance on authority is clear: Respect for authority is stated in Romans 13, yet how does one respect authority when such power structures are violating divine authority? Such dilemmas and specific illustrations will be utilized to engage the student's search for a thoughtful Christian mind. Is justice a universal ideal? Can Biblical truths be applied to governmental policies? Thus, students will expand their Biblical understandings to secular topics such as government.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND *KEY SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Macgruder's American Government, Prentice Hall

COURSE SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

- Origin of Government 1 Week
Key Concepts: Force Theory, Evolutionary Theory, Divine Right Theory, Social Contract Theory, Biblical Truth
Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.
- Forms Of Government 1 Week
Key Concepts: Geographic Distribution Of Power, Relationship Between Legislative And Executive Branches, Number Of Persons Who Take Part In Governmental Processes
Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.
- Basic Concepts Of Democracy 1 Week
Key Concepts: Worth And Dignity Of Each Individual, Majority Rule And Insistence On Minority Rights, Equality Of Each Person, Need To Compromise, Individual Freedom
Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.

<u>Political Beginnings</u>	<u>1 Week</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Early Dominance Of The English, English Tradition Of Ordered, Limited, And Representative Government, English Heritage Served As The Basis For Colonial Governments.	
Activities Surrounding The Revolutionary War: Continental Congresses, Declaration Of Independence, State Constitutions, Creation Of The Constitution, Articles Of Confederation, Constitutional Convention Of 1787, Debate Between Federalists And Anti-Federalists, Compromise Over Representation, Ratification	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>Basic Principles of American Government In The Constitution</u>	 <u>1 Week</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Popular Sovereignty, Limited Government, Separation Of Powers, Checks And Balances, Judicial Review, Federalism	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>Amending The Constitution</u>	 <u>1 Week</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Bill Of Rights, Amendment Process, "Informal Amendments", Legislation By Congress, Action By Presidents, Supreme Court Decisions, Activities of Political Parties, Custom.	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>Federalism: Two Levels of Power</u>	 <u>1 Week</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Delegated Powers, Reserved Powers, Role of the Supreme Court, Responsibilities of Federal to State Governments, Responsibilities Of States To The Federal Government And Each Other	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>Electoral Process</u>	 <u>1 Week</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Nominating Process, Elections: Methods, Campaign Finance Rules And Regulations; Federal Election Commission	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>Legislative Branch</u>	 <u>3 Weeks</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Bicameral: Connecticut Compromise, Terms, Special Sessions, House of Representatives, Senate, Roles of Congressmen, Scope of Congressional Powers, Organization of Congress, Committees, How a Bill Becomes a Law.	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	
 <u>The Executive Branch</u>	 <u>2 Weeks</u>
<i>Key Concepts:</i> Presidential Job Description, Presidential Succession, The Framers' Intent In The Selection Of The President,	
<i>Assessments:</i> Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.	

How The President Is Selected Today 1 Week

Key Concepts: Role Of Political Parties, Conventions, Elections, Role Of Electoral College.

Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.

Evolving Roles Of The President 1 Week

Key Concepts: Execution And Enforcement Of Laws, Diplomacy And Military Powers, Legislative And Judicial Powers, Executive Office Of The President And The Cabinet.

Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.

The Judicial Branch 3 Weeks

Key Concepts: Types Of Federal Courts, Important Judicial Concepts, Civil Liberties.

Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.

Optional Material (As Time Permits) Remaining Time

Key Concepts: Political Parties, Voters and Voter Behavior, Mass Media and Public Opinion, Interest Groups, The Bureaucracy, Public Finance and Taxation, Foreign Policy and National Defense, Comparative Political and Economic Systems, State and Local Government.

Assessments: Quiz, Homework, Readings, Class Behavior and Participation.