

## **American Government\***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

American Government is the study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. The focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. The principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights will be examined as will the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system. Students will compare the American system of government with other modern systems and assess the strengths and problems associated with the American system.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE LENGTH:** One semester

**REQUIRED TEXT:** None

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

#### **Introduction to Government & Politics**

#### **Roots of the American Constitution**

#### **Principles of American Government**

#### **The Federal System**

#### **Civil Rights and Liberties**

#### **Participation in a Democracy**

- Elections & Voting
- Political Parties

#### **Institutions of Government**

- Congress
- Presidency & Executive Branch
- Judiciary

\* = One semester (.5 credit) course