

# Canyon Crest Academy: American Government

Level of Difficulty	Estimated Homework	Prerequisites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult <input type="checkbox"/> Very Difficult	<p data-bbox="488 296 688 327">30-60 minutes</p> <p data-bbox="443 369 727 474"><b>The amount reported here is considered a <u>nightly average</u>.</b></p> <p data-bbox="443 516 740 976">It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the <b>average</b> homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value, and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.</p>	<p data-bbox="776 260 992 327"><b><u>District</u></b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade only.</b></p> <p data-bbox="776 369 938 401"><b><u>Department</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="813 407 1365 474">CP U.S. Government is recommended for students who:</p> <ul data-bbox="813 480 1458 835" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ possess reading and writing abilities that are at or below grade level (minimum 11th grade level recommended)</li> <li>▪ have strong academic interests in other high school disciplines (e.g., Science or Math).</li> <li>▪ need guidance with abstract and complex reasoning and thought, or with non-routine critical thinking assessments.</li> <li>▪ This course is college preparatory; some advanced reading is required.</li> </ul>

## Course Description

The U.S. government course introduces students to the requirements and demands of democratic citizenship. This course will develop informed, responsible participation in American political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy. This course students the nature and function of political relationships: citizen-to-citizen, citizen to local community, citizen to state, and citizen to the nation. It provides the students with the foundation essential to understanding the “why” of governmental policy and action. By building a solid foundation of understanding the dynamics of American politics, the course will also stimulate within the student a sense of political efficacy and activism on issues of personal interest. In short, U.S. Government will act as one of the two “finishing courses” of the Social Sciences, preparing students to take their rightful place as full, active, and responsible members of American society while simultaneously integrating in them an appreciation of the past as it relates to the present and preparing them for the possibilities of their future.

This course is aligned to California academic standards for U.S. Government. There are from five-to-seven possible units of study, including:

- The Foundations of American Government
- Political Behavior
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- Civil Liberties and Rights

- State and Local Government

Typical assignments in this course may include assessment of current events by watching television news programs, visiting news organization websites, or reading the newspaper. Additionally, students may be expected to complete independent projects as a requirement of the course. Examples of this might include the researching and writing of a bill to be presented before a mock legislature, preparation for a debate over a controversial law or court case, analysis of Supreme Court cases, or the writing of editorials and letters to the editor.

Due to the expedited nature of a 4x4 course, students can expect to read approximately two-to-three chapters per week. There are approximately five-to-six units anticipated. Students can expect a weekly test.

### **Grading**

Teachers employ variations of either the weighted or the cumulative method for determining grades. However, the following scale is used to determine the final grade:

100% to 90% A; 89% to 80% B; 79% to 70% C; 69% to 60% D; 59% and below F

### **Syllabus Link**

Refer to individual teacher websites.

### **Supplemental Information**

5 credits

Meets high school graduation requirement for Social Science

Meets UC/CSU subject area "a" requirement