

## ***U.S. Government***

Grade Level:	12
Length:	1 Semester
Period(s) Per Day:	1
Credit:	2
Credit Requirement Fulfilled:	Required of seniors - a must pass course

### ***Course Description***

The following United States Government course employs a well-balanced group of materials, assignments, and procedures based on one academic semester. The course will focus on major themes chosen and listed on the Havre Public Schools Curriculum

The class contains units on comparison of governments, the political spectrum, the Constitution, the functions of the separate branches of government, state and local governments, politics, interest groups, and problems of government.

### ***Theme Samples***

1. Understanding the central ideas of the U.S. Constitution; how it distributes power; the role and importance of the law which it generates; and personal, political, and economic rights.
2. Understanding the origin and role of the judicial branch and how it applies to the federal, state, and local levels.
3. Understand the legislative branch as a holistic concept that incorporates formation of all public policy including law, school board policy, city ordinances, etc.
4. Examine the wide ranging nature of the executive branch spanning from qualities of leadership to day to day bureaucratic functioning.
5. Compare and Contrast world political and economic systems.
6. Analyze contemporary issues in the world today and current events.
7. Understand how participation in civic and political life is crucial to a healthy democracy that provides citizens with the ability to achieve public and private goals.

### ***Course Objectives and Expectations***

1. To study major themes in U.S. Government and develop applicable understanding of our contemporary experience.

2. To create a greater awareness of both a world role of a major nation and the individual role of a responsible citizen.
3. To reinforce study skills and to encourage students to undertake a fair degree of self-guided education.

### ***Learning Activities***

Class will typically combine lecture and discussion. Three senior projects are also an integral part of the semester. These projects include: The Public Policy Log; Three Public Meetings; & The Mock Legislature at the end of the semester.

### ***Montana Standards for Social Studies***

Content Standard 2—Students analyze how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance to understand the operation of government and to demonstrate civic responsibility.

Benchmarks:

1. Analyze the historical and contemporary purpose of government and how the powers of government are acquired, modified, justified and used (e.g., checks and balances, Bill of Rights, court decisions).
2. Compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, institutions) with that of the United States.
3. Identify representative political leaders and philosophies from selected historical and contemporary settings.
4. Relate the concept of tribal sovereignty to the unique powers of tribal governments as they interact with local, state and federal governments.
- 5a analyze the effectiveness of various systems of government to protect the rights and needs of citizens and balance competing conceptions of a just society. 5b analyze the impact of the Constitution, laws and court decisions on the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
6. Analyze and evaluate conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among groups and nations (e.g., current events from newspapers, magazines, television).
7. Analyze laws and policies governing technology and evaluate the ethical issues and the impacts of technology on society.

Content Standard 5—Students make informed decisions based on an understanding of the economic principles of production, distribution, exchange, and consumption.

Benchmarks:

1. Analyze the impact that supply and demand, scarcity, prices, incentives, competition, and profits influence what is produced and distributed in various economic systems.
2. Use basic economic concepts (e.g., production, distribution, consumption, market economy and command economy) to compare and contrast local, regional, national, and global economies across time and at the present time.
3. Assess the costs and benefits to society of allocating goods and services through private and public sectors.
4. Compare and contrast how values and beliefs influence economic decisions in different economic systems.
5. Explain the operations, rules, and procedures of common financial instruments (e.g., stocks and bonds, retirement funds, IRAs) and financial institutions (credit companies, banks, insurance companies).
6. Explain and evaluate the effects of new technology, global economic interdependence, and competition on the development of national policies (e.g., social security system, medicare, other entitlement programs) and on the lives of the individuals and families in Montana, the United States and the world (e.g., international trade, space exploration, national defense).