

Government

A Curriculum Guide

I. Description

This one-semester course is designed help the student learn basic facts about our United States' government. The course uses reading and discussion to help the student become familiar with the workings of government. The history of the development of our government, documents associated with that history and historical and modern interpretations will be studied. Biblical principles of government and their relationship to the United States' government will also be touched upon.

II. Goals and Objectives

Student will:

- Be conversant with the key ideas and principles of the government of the United States.
- Have some idea of the relationship of Biblical principles regarding government.
- Be aware of key people involved in the formation of the government of the United States.
- Be aware of key ideas behind the United States' government.
- Be familiar with the content of the constitution of the United States.
- Have an idea of some of the historical ramifications of the United States' constitution and the outworking of its interpretation throughout history.
- Be aware of some major present day ideas and issues regarding the United States' constitution and way of government.

III. Outline

- A. Introduction and Examination of American Government.
 - 1. Introduction: The Political Crisis.
 - 2. American Government: Sum and Substance.
- B. Background of Political Thought and Practice.
 - 1. The Heritage of Political Thought
 - 2. The Development of Modern Political Thought.
 - 3. The English Heritage.
 - 4. American Colonial Experience
 - 5. Constitution Making.
- C. American Government in the 19th Century.
 - 1. Establishing a General Government
 - 2. The Rise of Political Parties.
 - 3. Limited Constitutional Government: The Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Way.

4. The Constitution as Higher Law: The Establishment of the Supreme Court.
 5. Government in the States.
 6. Civil War and Reconstruction: Constitutional Disruption and Restoration.
- D. American Government in the 20th Century.
1. Preparation for the 20th Century Government.
 2. Shift of Power Away from the States.
 3. Federal Government Growth.

IV. Instructional Materials

Carson, Clarence B., *Basic American Government*. American Textbook Committee, Phenix City, AL. 2001.

Elliot, Elisabeth, *Shadow of the Almighty*. Harper, San Francisco. 1989.

Amos, Gary and Richard Gardiner, *Never Before in History*. Pandas Publications, Dallas. 1998.

Kramnick, Isaac and R. Laurence Moore, *The Godless Constitution*. Norton, New York. 1997.

Loewen, James W., *Lies My teacher Told Me*. Touchstone, New York. 1996.

V. Teaching Methods

- A. Lecture.
- B. Reading.
- C. Teacher-Student discussions.

VI. Evaluation

- A. Written question answers.
- B. Teacher-Student discussions.
- C. Term paper.

VII. Grading Scale

The grading scale will be as follows:

Percentage Score	Letter Grade
[90, 100]	A
[80, 90)	B
[70, 80)	C
[60, 70)	D
below 60	F