

Pre-IB American Government and Economics Honors

International Baccalaureate School

Syllabus: Social Studies

Course Number: American Government 2106320W
Economics 2102320W

Prerequisites: Acceptance into the IB program

Course Description:

This is a survey course in which the student will be introduced to governmental and economic development in the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Course Objectives:

The course will prepare the student to understand the structure of government and the philosophical and historical development of government, to think in economic terms, to understand economic structures, and to compare economic systems around the world.

Course Outline: American Government

Unit I: Foundations of American Government

- Ch. 1 People and Government
- Ch. 2 Origins of American Government
- Ch. 3 The Constitution
- Ch. 4 The Federal System

Unit II: The Legislative Branch

- Ch. 5 The Organization of Congress
- Ch. 6 Development of Congressional Powers
- Ch. 7 Congress at Work

Unit III: The Executive Branch

- Ch. 8 The Presidency
- Ch. 9 Presidential Leadership
- Ch. 10 The Federal Bureaucracy

Unit IV: The Judicial Branch

- Ch. 11 The Federal Court System
- Ch. 12 Supreme Court Decision Making

Unit V: Liberty and Justice for All

- Ch. 13 Constitutional Freedoms
- Ch. 14 Citizenship and Equal Justice

Political parties and functions of state and local government will also be included in this course.

Students will be responsible for all material listed and will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of it. In addition to text material, the course will include guest speakers, appropriate videos, historical readings, current events, and other appropriate government information. Students will be expected to learn the Preamble to the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and they will create a project on an assigned topic. Videos will include “ Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”, “ Twelve Angry Men”, and “ National Treasure”. We will discuss daily world news and the role of the United States as leader of the free world.

Course Outline: Economics

Unit I: Fundamental Economic Concepts

- Ch. 1 What Is Economics?
- Ch. 2 Economic Systems and Decision Making
- Ch. 3 Business Organizations

Unit II: Microeconomics

- Ch. 4 Demand
- Ch. 5 Supply
- Ch. 6 Prices and Decision Making
- Ch. 7 Market Structures

Unit III: Macroeconomics: Institutions

- Ch. 8 Employment, Labor, and Wages
- Ch. 11 Money and Banking

Unit V: International and Global Economics

- Ch. 17 International Trade
- Ch. 18 Comparative Economic Systems
- Ch. 19 Developing Countries
- Ch. 20 Global Economic Challenges

Students will be responsible for all material listed and will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of it. In addition to text material, the course will include students keeping a budget and spending journal, and a comparison shopping project. We will discuss daily world economic events and the role of the United States as leader of the free world.

The following will also be included in American Government and Economics:

1. Analyze political and economic cartoons, maps, graphs, and charts
2. Read case studies of past and present entrepreneurs
3. Analyze short stories from an economic standpoint (“Three Little Pigs”, “Little Red Hen”, “Gift of the Magi”, “Mammon and the Archer”)
4. Critical study of John Stossel videos
5. Read and answer questions from **The New York Times “Upfront”**, a Scholastic publication

Course Requirements and Evaluations

I. Homework / Daily Work	15%
II. Class Participation	15%
III. Quizzes (Review)	5%
IV. Tests	40%
V. Final Exam	10%
VI. Project	15%

Text and other Resource Material

Glencoe / McGraw-Hill, *United States Government Democracy in Action*, 2006

Glencoe / McGraw-Hill, *Economics Principles and Practices*, 2005

Scholastic, *The New York Times Upfront*, 2005

The Lakeland Ledger

**Constance Patton
Bartow IB High School**