

# **U.S. Government & Citizenship**

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## **Course Description**

The goal of this course is to foster informed, responsible participation in public life. Knowing how to be a good citizen is essential to the preservation and improvement of the United States. Upon completion of this course the student will understand the major ideas, protections, rights, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen in the United States. Additionally, students will practice the skills needed to conduct inquiries, weigh evidence, make informed decisions, and participate in political processes. This course should nurture desirable dispositions including a commitment to the American ideals of liberty, equality, opportunity, and justice for all. This course is recommended for seniors due to their proximity to voting age.

## **Course Goals, Objectives and Syllabus**

Through our study of American government we will also develop and practice social studies skills that are important in building a civil society. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to

- Engage in deliberative, collaborative, and civil dialogue regarding historical and current issues.
- Apply knowledge of governmental structure, historical concepts, geographic interrelationships, and economic principles to analyze and explain current events.
- Identify local, state, national, or international problems; consider solutions to these problems; and share their ideas with appropriate public and/or private stakeholders.
- Develop and demonstrate the values that sustain America's democratic republic, such as open-mindedness, engagement, honesty, problem-solving, responsibility, diligence, resilience, empathy, self-control, and cooperation.
- Engage in dialogue regarding American exceptionalism, in the sense of the special character of the United States as a uniquely free nation based on democratic ideals and personal liberty.

A detailed Syllabus and list of Objectives for this course can be found online through the digital courses or on the Utah Education Network (<http://www.uen.org/core/core.do?courseNum=6450>)

Note: *The Syllabus for this class is subject to be changed, or altered so that the objectives may align with the Core Curriculum that has been developed in Utah. The Utah Core Curriculum outlines specific standards for student learning, any material that is not originally on the Syllabus. The state core can be accessed on the Utah State Office of Education's website at: <http://www.uen.org/core/socialstudies/9-12.shtml>*

All course work will be completed and graded through a digital learning management system known as Spark/iGo. Spark/iGo can be accessed on the Innovations High School website at: <http://www.innovationshigh.org/>.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend school regularly and come prepared to learn. Students are expected to meet with Mr. Villate on a regular basis concerning the course curriculum and personal progress. Additional types of instructional activities will be used with students (group learning projects, classroom meetings, debates, discussions, etc.) in addition to the digital material. Students will be asked to work with Mr. Villate concerning any specific dates and times in which students will be asked to come to school for any group work.

Students are required to do all testing at Innovations High School.

**Important!** Students will **NOT** receive a 'P' grade, even if they take the Competency-Based Test. All students will earn one of the following grades below. If students want to take the Competency Test they must do so the first-week of every term, unless they are ahead in their pacing then accommodations will be made.

### **Grading Procedures**

A	94-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	59-63%
C+	77-79%	F	58% or below

Parents/Guardians will be able to observe and view their student's progress through Synapse or are welcome to contact Mr. Villate

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

Students will be allowed to complete the course at a pace which best suits them. The students will be responsible for completing and turning in all assignments according to their individual needs.

Feel free to contact Mr. Villate through email, phone, or in person for any questions or concerns regarding this course.

## **U.S. Government & Citizenship**

**Name:**

**Grade:**

I have received and read a copy of the Course Disclosure Document:

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_