



VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GRADE 12

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Virginia and United States Government examines the structures of governments and decision-making processes at local, state, national, and international levels. Powers of each branch of government are examined through a study of the Constitution, historical documents, the Virginia State Constitution, and local governing bodies. American foreign policy is studied in its historical context, and our governmental and economic systems are compared with other forms. The free-enterprise system is examined as basic economic concepts, principles, and models are explored. Democratic values and citizen participation are stressed, and student participation in the community is encouraged.

PREREQUISITE

Virginia and United States History

or

Advanced Placement United States History

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

None

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Magruder's American Government (Virginia Edition) (Pearson, 2009)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose to supplement the basal textbook with materials to extend and enrich the students' understanding of course topics. These materials may be drawn from daily newspapers, periodicals, television and other visual media, primary source documents, simulations, and computer programs.

THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES THAT COMPRISE THE VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COURSE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM:

TOPICS OF STUDY

Unit 1: “For Governments Differ In Kind”

- VUSG.12.1.1 Describe the characteristics of a state.
- VUSG.12.1.2 Explain the purposes of government.
- VUSG.12.1.3 Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the different ways to organize political power. **(GOVT. 13)**
- VUSG.12.1.4 Explain the influence of democratic traditions on the development of democratic ideals. **(GOVT. 2)**
- VUSG.12.1.5 Summarize the democratic traditions reflected in American colonial governments. **(GOVT. 2)**
- VUSG.12.1.6 Explain the influence of Enlightenment ideas on the development of American democracy. **(GOVT. 2)**
- VUSG.12.1.7 Describe economics. **(GOVT. 15)**
- VUSG.12.1.8 Identify basic economic questions. **(GOVT. 14)**
- VUSG.12.1.9 Compare the characteristics of free market, command, and mixed economies. **(GOVT. 14)**
- VUSG.12.1.10 Describe the relationship between economic and political systems. **(GOVT. 14)**
- VUSG.12.1.11 Identify conditions conducive to sustaining democratic governments. **(GOVT. 3, GOVT. 14)**

Unit 2: “So Near To Perfection”

- VUSG.12.2.1 Describe the fundamental principles of constitutional government. **(GOVT. 2, GOVT. 4)**
- VUSG.12.2.2 Identify the purposes of the Constitution of the United States of America. **(GOVT. 4)**
- VUSG.12.2.3 Define the relationships between the national and state governments. **(GOVT. 5)**
- VUSG.12.2.4 Describe the basic structure of the Constitution of the United States.
- VUSG.12.2.5 Describe the intent and examples of checks and balances. **(GOVT.4)**
- VUSG.12.2.6 Examine the positions presented during the ratification debates. **(GOVT. 4)**
- VUSG.12.2.7 Identify the procedures to amend the Constitution of the United States. **(GOVT. 4)**
- VUSG.12.2.8 Analyze contemporary trends and issues in American federalism.

Unit 3: “In The Hearts Of Men”

- VUSG.12.3.1 Describe the factors that influence political perspectives. **(GOVT. 9)**
- VUSG.12.3.2 Describe the ways individuals and groups influence public policy and decision-making. **(GOVT. 6, GOVT. 7, GOVT. 9)**
- VUSG.12.3.3 Describe the purpose and organization of political parties. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.3.4 Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of one, two, and multi-party systems.
- VUSG.12.3.5 Describe the electoral process. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.3.6 Trace the expansion of suffrage in America. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.3.7 Describe voting requirements in Virginia. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.3.8 Analyze factors that may influence election outcomes. **(GOVT. 6, GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.3.9 Analyze factors that may influence voter turnout. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.3.10 Analyze current issues affecting the election process.

Unit 4: “Of The People”

- VUSG.12.4.1 Describe the purpose and organization of the legislative branch of the national government. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.4.2 Compare the powers, organization, membership, and privileges of the House and the Senate.
- VUSG.12.4.3 Describe the purpose, process, and effects of reapportionment. **(GOVT. 6)**
- VUSG.12.4.4 Identify significant powers of Congress. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 5, GOVT. 7, GOVT. 16)**
- VUSG.12.4.5 Identify specific powers granted to the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- VUSG.12.4.6 Describe the role and functions of congressional committees. **(GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.4.7 Identify the role of the legislative branch in the system of checks and balances. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.4.8 Describe the legislative process.
- VUSG.12.4.9 Describe contemporary issues facing the federal legislature.

Unit 5: “The Distinguished Office”

- VUSG.12.5.1 Describe the purpose and organization of the executive branch. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.5.2 Identify the significant roles and responsibilities of the executive branch. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 7)**
- VUSG.12.5.3 Describe the role of the executive branch in the system of checks and balances. **(GOVT.4, GOVT.7)**
- VUSG.12.5.4 Describe the function and organization of the federal bureaucracy. **(GOVT. 9)**
- VUSG.12.5.5 Assess the role of the American presidency in the 21st century.

Unit 6: “The Swift Movement of Events”

- VUSG.12.6.1 Describe the goals of American foreign policy. **(GOVT. 12)**
- VUSG.12.6.2 Describe the role of the executive branch in conducting foreign policy. **(GOVT. 12)**
- VUSG.12.6.3 Describe the roles of the legislative and judicial branches in conducting foreign policy. **(GOVT. 12)**
- VUSG.12.6.4 Analyze the effectiveness of the tools of foreign policy. **(GOVT. 12)**
- VUSG.12.6.5 Describe the factors that influence American foreign policy actions. **(GOVT. 12)**
- VUSG.12.6.6 Analyze American interests and policy on contemporary foreign policy issues. **(GOVT. 12)**

Unit 7: “A Fearless Court”

- VUSG.12.7.1 Describe the hierarchy and purpose of the judicial branch. **(GOVT. 4, GOVT. 7, GOVT. 10)**
- VUSG.12.7.2 Explain the significance of John Marshall’s leadership on the Supreme Court. **(GOVT. 10)**
- VUSG.12.7.3 Describe the jurisdiction of the federal court system. **(GOVT. 10)**
- VUSG.12.7.4 Describe the decision making process used by the Supreme Court. **(GOVT. 10)**
- VUSG.12.7.5 Describe the role of the federal judiciary in the system of checks and balances. **(GOVT. 4)**
- VUSG.12.7.6 Analyze the role of the Supreme Court in contemporary society. **(GOVT. 10)**

Unit 8: “As Good As Its Promise”

- VUSG.12.8.1 Describe the sources of American citizenship.
- VUSG.12.8.2 Identify the characteristics and duties of citizenship in a democracy. **(GOVT. 18, GOVT. 19)**
- VUSG.12.8.3 Identify the difference between civil liberties and civil rights. **(GOVT. 11)**
- VUSG.12.8.4 Describe civil liberties guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. **(GOVT. 11)**
- VUSG.12.8.5 Explain limitations on civil liberties. **(GOVT. 11)**
- VUSG.12.8.6 Describe the rights of the accused as outlined in the Amendments of the Bill of Rights. **(GOVT. 11)**
- VUSG.12.8.7 Describe the importance of the Fourteenth Amendment. **(GOVT. 11)**
- VUSG.12.8.8 Explain how the Fourteenth Amendment protects civil liberties of citizens. **(GOVT. 11)**

Unit 9: “From Each...To Each”

- VUSG.12.9.1 Describe the role of the American government in maintaining a market economy. **(GOVT. 16)**
- VUSG.12.9.2 Diagram and explain the circular flow model of a free market economy. **(GOVT. 15)**
- VUSG.12.9.3 Describe the role of economic indicators in determining economic status. **(GOVT.15)**
- VUSG.12.9.4 Describe the organization of business in a free market economy. **(GOVT. 15)**
- VUSG.12.9.5 Describe ways government protects the economic freedoms associated with a free market economy. **(GOVT. 14, GOVT. 16)**
- VUSG.12.9.6 Describe the process of price determination in a market economy. **(GOVT. 15)**
- VUSG.12.9.7 Describe the purpose and methods of fiscal policy. **(GOVT. 16)**
- VUSG.12.9.8 Describe the purpose and methods of monetary policy. **(GOVT. 16)**
- VUSG.12.9.9 Assess the role of government in the economy.
- VUSG.12.9.10 Analyze global economic trends. **(GOVT. 15)**

Unit 10: “The Key To The Rest”

- VUSG.12.10.1 Describe the purposes and responsibilities of state governments.
- VUSG.12.10.2 Explain the division of power between the state and national governments.
- VUSG.12.10.3 Describe the organization and responsibilities of Virginia’s Executive Branch. **(GOVT. 8)**
- VUSG.12.10.4 Describe the structure and responsibilities of Virginia’s legislative branch. **(GOVT. 8)**
- VUSG.12.10.5 Describe the organization and responsibilities of Virginia’s judicial system. **(GOVT. 8)**
- VUSG.12.10.6 Explain the purpose of special districts/regional authorities. **(GOVT. 8)**
- VUSG.12.10.7 Analyze state issues and problems.

Unit 11: “All Politics Is Local”

- VUSG.12.11.1 Describe the functions and responsibilities of local government in Virginia.
- VUSG.12.11.2 Describe the function and organization of local governance in Virginia.
- VUSG.12.11.3 Describe the development of local government in Virginia Beach.
- VUSG.12.11.4 Identify the method of selection and the responsibilities of government officials.
- VUSG.12.11.5 Analyze current local issues/problems.
- VUSG.12.11.6 Identify democratic political concepts underlying the treatment of individuals in a democracy. **(GOVT. 3)**
- VUSG.12.11.7 Identify conditions conducive to sustaining democratic governments. **(GOVT. 14)**

Unit 12: “Give Him Power”

- VUSG.12.12.1 Distinguish among federal, unitary, and confederal systems. **(GOVT. 13)**
- VUSG.12.12.2 Describe the characteristics of limited and authoritarian governments. **(GOVT. 13)**
- VUSG.12.12.3 Identify the characteristics of various forms of government. **(GOVT. 13)**
- VUSG.12.12.4 Evaluate the relationship between a form of government and the quality of life of its citizens. **(GOVT. 14)**

CITIZENSHIP GOALS

- Accepting responsibility for completing assignments and tasks
- Valuing the worth and dignity of all individuals

- Respecting the rights, property, beliefs, and opinions of others
- Resolving conflicts through compromise and consensus
- Accepting the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Appreciating the American heritage and valuing its principles, beliefs, and freedoms
- Recognizing America's role in world affairs
- Registering and voting in elections for which he or she is eligible
- Keeping informed on current issues and events
- Participating in school and community activities

SKILLS

- **Study Skills**
 - Organizing and maintaining class notes
 - Locating information in a variety of sources
 - Selecting appropriate or relevant information from sources
- **Chart/Graph Skills**
 - Making and using charts and graphs to organize and classify information
 - Drawing conclusions about current events from political cartoons
 - Using chart and graph skills to solve problems
 - Identifying the symbols and devices used in editorial cartoons
- **Map/Globe Skills**
 - Locating physical and political features on maps and globes
 - Identifying regional patterns
 - Describing location in relative terms
 - Making and interpreting political and special purpose maps
- **Problem-Solving/Decision-Making Skills**
 - Identifying the steps in the decision-making/problem-solving process
 - Applying the process to seek solutions and make decisions
 - Evaluating the possible results of proposed solutions
 - Evaluating the decision making of leaders and governmental organizations
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
 - Evaluating differing points of view
 - Recognizing biased statements and stereotypes
 - Recognizing inconsistencies in a line of reasoning
 - Using facts to support a position or opinion
 - Analyzing and evaluating data to make reasoned judgments
 - Recognizing cause-effect relationships
 - Evaluating the decision making and problem solving of leaders

- **Communication Skills**

- Preparing reports, projects, and presentations
- Writing paragraphs and summaries
- Listening actively to the ideas and thoughts of others
- Contributing ideas and suggestions to class discussion
- Reading for information and enjoyment
- Researching and analyzing information using various references and resources
- Communicating findings in both oral and written forms



MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Secondary Instructional Services, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429; fax (757) 263-1412.