



2024-2025

Rapid City
Central High School

US Government

RCAS Policies/Procedures:

Students will be required to follow all RCAS policies and procedures. To view the RCAS High School Student Handbook, click [handbook](#).

Course Description:

Students will study the Constitution, fundamentals of democracy, and U.S. government. The course will examine interactions of government institutions and the ways in which government institutions affect individuals and participation in the political process. Students will study public policy and how it relates to current events. This class emphasizes the rights, duties, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

Textbook:

Shea, Daniel M. Magruder's American Government, Pearson, 2016.

Required Resources:

Declaration of Independence
United States Constitution
Articles of Confederation
South Dakota Constitution
South Dakota Tribal Constitutions
"Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)
Foundational Documents and Cases from American Government

"Limited Choice" Resources: (students will be asked to choose at least one title from this list)

Student Choice:

Will student be asked to choose additional reading material from the classroom or school library?

No

Essential Questions:

How do founding documents describe how our government should work? To what extent should we be faithful to the founders' intentions?

How are elections run? To what extent do elections reflect the will of the people?

How does the government work together to make laws? To what extent is Congress designed to make laws that reflect the will of the people?

In what way(s) have the leadership and actions of particular Presidents moved us closer to, or further from, our nation's democratic ideals?

How does the Supreme Court work? How does the Supreme Court balance the rights of the individual and the needs of society?

How does the government work together to implement public policy? To what extent is the way the government implements public policy beneficial or detrimental to the people?

Essential Learning Intentions:

- I can accurately and consistently apply my understanding of social studies concepts in familiar situations using relevant content or ideas.
- I can accurately and consistently analyze a concept in familiar contexts using relevant resources.
- I can clearly and consistently articulate an accurate and relevant claim or conclusion on a familiar topic, and use resources to accurately support that claim or conclusion.
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