



2024-2025

Rapid City
Alternative Academy

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:

Magraders American Government

Required Resources:

“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:

- What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy?
- What are the origins of the American government and how it exists today?
- What role does the American citizen play in their government?
- How does political behavior affect our society?
- What are the roles, characteristics, and functions of the legislative branch?
- What are the roles, characteristics, and functions of the executive branch?
- What are the roles, characteristics, and functions of the judicial branch?
- How do tribal, state, and national governments work together?

Essential Skills:

1. Students will be able to identify the process of citizenship, the rights of citizens, and the responsibilities of citizens. -Students will be able to explain the major forms of government. -Students will be able to explore the origins behind the American democratic form of government. -Students will be able to explain the six basic principles on which the Constitution is built and the formal/informal amendment process.
2. Students will examine the nature, function, and evolution of the American two-party political system, as well as the effect of minor parties on elections. -Students will understand the various factors that affect voter behavior. -Students will illustrate how candidates are nominated for public office, how elections are conducted, and the role of finance in the electoral process. -Students will analyze the role of public opinion in American politics and the impact of mass media.
3. Students will explore the functions of our U.S. Congress, the structure of each house, and congressional demographics. -Students will analyze the scope of congressional powers. -Students will be able to illustrate how Congress is organized, the role of committees, and how bills become laws.
4. Students will examine the roles the President process by which he or she is elected. -Students will explore the nature and the expansion of the executive powers. -Students will learn about the shaping and enacting of United States foreign policy and the United States' role in foreign aid and defense alliances.
5. Students will be able to outline the structures and functions of the judicial branch. -Students will be able to evaluate the importance of civil liberties including first amendment freedoms and equality under the law.
6. Students will understand how tribal, state, and national governments work

together.