



**RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Course Overview**



**ACADEMIC Government and Economics**  
**Course #**

**General Information**

Credits: 1

Weighted: honors

Prerequisite: none

Length: Full Year

Format: Meets Daily

Grade: 9

**Course Description**

The Government and Economics' course provides students with an opportunity to study the key concepts of government and economics and the interrelatedness of the two disciplines. The government topics include: the constitutional basis of American democracy, federalism, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, elections, campaigns, the role of interest groups, the mass media, individual rights, the structure of U.S. government (Congress, presidency, the courts, and bureaucracy). The economic topics include: economic theories, macro-economic concepts such as monetary policy, money and banking, micro economics concepts such as supply and demand AND competition/monopolies.

Module 1—Government: Forms and Functions

Module 2—Citizenship in Modern Democracies

**Course Objectives:**

**Essential Questions:**

- How does the past influence present forms and functions of government?
- How do governments balance the rights of individuals in relation to the public good?
- How does one's background influence their political beliefs or behaviors?
- How can individual actions result in change?
- Who has the power and how do they keep it?
- Who has the wealth, how do they get it, how do they keep it?

**Enduring Understandings:**

Students will understand that

- distributing governmental power prevents its abuse
- there is a relationship between systems of government and political and economic freedom
- political compromise should lead to the attainment of individual and public goals
- there are disparities between ideals and reality in American political and social life
- the American concept of democracy and individual rights has impacted the world

## ***Common Assessments:***

**Quarter I:** Bill of Rights in Contemporary American Society

**Quarter II:** Comparison of Four Founding Documents

**Quarter III:** Persuasive Letter to Elected Official

**Quarter IV:** Economic Interaction in Your Daily Life

## ***Major Units of Study:***

### **I. Foundations of Government AND Government and Political Philosophies**

- Define civic life, politics and government
- Essential Characteristics of American democratic government and how this form of government has shaped the character and values of American society
- Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of Citizenship
  - Citizenship and Naturalization
  - Voluntary American citizen duties and participation
  - American citizenship duties required by law
- Forms of government (federal, state and local)
- Purposes and principles of government systems
  - Characteristics of democracies, monarchies and dictatorships around the world
- Historical Development Early American Colonial Government
- Influential writings and theories that contributed to the formation of democratic government in the U.S.
- Origins of the US and PA Constitutions

### **II. U.S. Constitution and Institutions of Federal and PA State Government**

- Purpose of the Constitution: Six Goals of the Preamble
- Organization of the Constitution: Seven Articles and 27 Amendments
- Article I, II III: Structure of the federal government
- Significance of Articles IV, V, VI, VIII
- Seven Principles found throughout the Constitution
  - Popular Sovereignty
  - Separation of Powers
  - Delegated, Inherent and Concurrent Powers between the national and state governments
  - Federalism
  - Limited Government
  - Checks and Balances
- Structure of the PA government
- Amending the U.S. Constitution and the PA Constitution
  - Formal Process: Proposal and Ratification

### **III. The Political Process (Federal, State, and Local)**

- History of American Political Parties

- Elections and Campaigns
- Public Opinion
- Political Parties and Party Organization (local, state and national levels)
- Interest Groups
- The Media and Propaganda

#### **IV. Public Policy**

- Domestic

#### **V. Civil Liberties and Rights**

- Source, purposes and functions of the Constitution for the protection of individual rights/freedoms and the common good
  - First Amendment Freedoms
- Issues regarding personal, political and economic rights and judicial protection of these rights within the scope of the Constitution
  - Fourteenth Amendment and the State Constitutions
  - Rights of the Accused—(4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
  - Equal Protection and Civil Liberties
- Civic responsibilities

#### **VI. Principles of Economics**

- Scarcity and Choice
- Opportunity Costs
- Economic Models
- Characteristics of the American Economy
- Balancing Economic Rights and Responsibilities

#### **VII. Macro-Economics**

- Money and Banking

### ***Materials & Texts***

Textbook: *United States Government Principals in Practice* , Holt Mc Dougal

Textbook: *Economics Concepts and Choices*, Holt McDougal

Other selected documents