

**American Government 101:**  
*From the Continental Congress to the Iowa Caucus,  
Everything You Need to Know About United States Politics*

---

<b>Grades:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Day of Week:</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Time of Class:</b>	<b>11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET</b>
<b>Length of Class:</b>	<b>20 weeks</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Fall 2022 &amp; Winter 2023</b>
<b>Tuition:</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>High School Credit:</b>	<b>1 – Social Studies – Social Science - History</b>

**Class Dates:**

**Week 1: Week of September 11**

**Week 2: Week of September 18**

***No classes from September 25 – October 6, 2023 – Jewish Holidays***

**Week 3: Week of October 9**

**Week 4: Week of October 16**

**Week 5: Week of October 23**

**Week 6: Week of October 30**

**Week 7: Week of November 6**

**Week 8: Week of November 13**

***No classes from November 20 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holidays***

**Week 9: Week of November 27**

**Week 10: Week of December 4**

***Make-Up Days: Week of December 11***

**Week 11: Week of January 8**

**Week 12: Week of January 15**

**Week 13: Week of January 22**

**Week 14: Week of January 29**

**Week 15: Week of February 5**

**Week 16: Week of February 12**

**Week 17: Week of February 19**

**Week 18: Week of February 26**

**Week 19: Week of March 4**

**Week 20: Week of March 11**

***Make-Up Days: Week of March 18***

**Instructor's Name:** Jonathan Meola  
**Instructor's Email:** jonathan@opententacademy.com  
**Instructor's Phone:** 305-906-2897

---

### **Description of Class:**

Too often, Government classes turn the noteworthy details into tedious discourse that would put even the president to sleep. *American Government 101* cuts out the boring explanations, and instead provides hands-on activities that keeps you engaged as you learn. From the backstory of the Constitution to the institution of the Electoral College, this class is packed with hundreds of entertaining tidbits and concepts to help you learn about how the government of the United States works. Whether you want to learn about how policies and laws are created, or just want to become a better-informed voter, *American Government 101* has all the answers--even the ones you didn't know you were looking for.

### **Class Approach:**

This class is a combination of lecture, video clips as well as discussion.

### **Goals:**

For students to understand how the government works and become a more informed citizen of the United States.

### **Textbook:**

American Government 101: From the Continental Congress to the Iowa Caucus, Everything You Need to Know About US Politics by Kathleen Sears

[https://www.amazon.com/American-Government-101-Continental-Everything/dp/1440598452/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1542533510&sr=8-6&fbclid=IwAR0ACPjacKitZtOpAxxXogcwD1YEC929VoMcjxuqmzuJ3\\_eo5fJIClIXOT0](https://www.amazon.com/American-Government-101-Continental-Everything/dp/1440598452/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1542533510&sr=8-6&fbclid=IwAR0ACPjacKitZtOpAxxXogcwD1YEC929VoMcjxuqmzuJ3_eo5fJIClIXOT0)

### **Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:**

- Access to a computer
- Internet Access
  - At times, instructor will share an article or video to be viewed in preparation for class
- Notebook

- Microphone
- Camera (Smart Phone Camera is absolutely fine)

### Requirements:

Students will be expected to interact in class. Students will be required to complete assignments in a timely manner. Students need to respect each other.

### Weekly Homework:

Every week there will be a combination of reading, viewing of video clips as well as writing. You can expect about 3 – 4 hours of homework weekly.

### Homework Policy:

Homework will be due prior to class for students to receive full credit unless arrangements have been made in advance. Students will receive partial credit for homework submitted within two class periods of due date. No credit will be given for homework turned in after two weeks. Additionally, any outstanding homework needs to be turned in prior to any unit test, even if that is sooner than the two weeks.

### Grading Scale:

90-100 =	A
89-80 =	B
79-70 =	C
69-60 =	D
59 and below:	F

### Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction The Mayflower Compact and Colonial Government, Rebellion and Revolution Articles of Confederation; Writing the Constitution
<b>Week 2</b>	What's in the Constitution; Amending the Constitution Freedom of Speech and Press; Freedom to Bear Arms; Separation of Church and State
<b>Week 3</b>	The House of Representatives; The Senate Advise and Consent and Filibuster; Congressional Duties and Responsibilities
<b>Week 4</b>	Making a Law; Creating a Budget; Budgetary Oversight
<b>Week 5</b>	The American President; Presidential Duties; Presidential Successions The Powers of a President; Impeachment
<b>Week 6</b>	The First Lady; The Vice President; The Cabinet

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	Executive Office of the President; Policy “Czars” and Non-Governmental Advisers
<b>Week 8</b>	The Supreme Court; The Judicial Review
<b>Week 9</b>	The Federal and State Judiciary; The Federal and State Powers
<b>Week 10</b>	Mid - Term
<b>Week 11</b>	The Civil Service; Security Agencies
<b>Week 12</b>	The Importance of Voting; The Evolution of the Democratic Party
<b>Week 13</b>	The Evolution of the Republican party; Third Party Candidates
<b>Week 14</b>	Selecting Candidates; Election Day
<b>Week 15</b>	The Media and Government
<b>Week 16</b>	Money, Pork, and Influence; The Lobbyists
<b>Week 17</b>	State Government; The Powers of Governors
<b>Week 18</b>	State Legislatures; County Government; City and Town Government
<b>Week 19</b>	Student Project Presentations End of Class Jeopardy - Review
<b>Week 20</b>	Final Exam