

USVA Government One-Pager

Course Overview

The purpose of the course is to provide students with the basic tools of citizenship – information and analytical skills.

To this end, the content of the course addresses the forms and processes of government and politics as well as the meaning of citizenship itself.

This course is based on the Fairfax County Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning for the United States and Virginia Government and concentrates on the students' role as a citizen in the American constitutional system.

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Political Behavior and Elections
- Unit 2: Executive Branch & Bureaucracy
- Unit 3: Media & Interest Groups
- Unit 4: Constitution & Federalism
- Unit 5: Legislative Branch
- Unit 6: Judicial Branch
- Unit 7: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- Unit 8: State and Local Government

How will classes be structured?

- Units of study will be supplemented and oftentimes interrupted by current events and contemporary issues
- Because there is no AP or SOL exam at the end of the course, there will be flexibility to explore topics further and follow the interests of the class
- Honors include similar content and pacing as On-Level and Team-Taught courses, but are differentiated
- Students are encouraged to develop and share their own political opinions, values and beliefs