

**Summer H. United States Government**  
**Instructional Information and Course Overview**  
**June 2nd - June 16th**

**Course Description:** The United States Government course at Notre Dame Preparatory explores the development of the United States Constitution and how it functions through the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the foundations of American government, civil liberties and rights, and state and local governmental structure and functions. This class will look at government in action from both historical and current perspectives. In addition to this, the course seeks to continuously develop and foster higher-level critical thinking skills that emphasize analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students are expected to be open-minded as belligerence during discussion time is not tolerated. As a result, students will learn how to support their positions with credible and factually based evidence. In doing so, students will learn how to accept the critiques and varying viewpoints of their classmates on a pathway toward academic excellence. Finally, this class will look at government in action from both historical and current perspectives.

This course is split into the following five units:

- Unit 1: Origins of Government and Federalism
- Unit 2: Political Parties and Legislative Branch
- Unit 3: Executive Branch
- Unit 4: Judicial Branch
- Unit 5: Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

Each unit will be covered in one day, so expect to have a unit exam daily beginning with our Unit 1 Test in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 2. This is a fast-paced course that requires you to complete all the required readings, viewings, and assignments every day. All homework assignments will be due by 11:59 pm and late work will not be accepted. This is an Honors course, so the expectations are set much higher, which means you need to be prepared to work during our limited time in the classroom.

**Grading:** 8% Formative / 72% Summative / 20% Final

**Class Time:** Classes begin at 8am and the school day ends at 2 pm each day. Be prepared for lecture and PPT starting at 8am. There will be a lot of information you will need to absorb and comprehend in a short period of time, so expect to be held to tight deadlines during our classroom sessions. Below is a list of potential topics that will be assigned to complete outside of class in discussion format. Your nightly homework will consist of participating in these discussions, completing projects and prepping for your unit exams.

- Are you in favor of universal health care and if so why?
- Do school vouchers make sense? What are the benefits? What are the drawbacks?
- Should the legal voting age be changed to 16?
- Should there be term limits in Congress? Why or why not? What types of limits would you propose?
- Does the Electoral College need to be revised or scrapped?
- Does the 2nd Amendment need to be revised or scrapped? Does the language of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment allow for government oversight and regulation or not?
- Should there be a nationwide drinking age of 21?
- Does the United States spend too much or too little on national defense?

**Attendance:** Daily attendance is required. You are only allowed one excused absence for the duration of the course.

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment only before 8 am or after 2 pm.

Make sure you follow all assignment directions completely so that you do not unnecessarily lose points. When doing your virtual work, complete the assignments in the order they are listed in the modules.

Unit 1: Origins of Government and Federalism – June 2nd (all work due by 11:59 pm)

Unit 2: Political Parties and Legislative Branch – June 3rd (all work due by 11:59 pm)

Unit 3: Executive Branch – June 4th (all work due by 11:59 pm)

Unit 4: Judicial Branch – June 14th (all work due by 11:59 pm)

Unit 5: Civil Rights/Civil Liberties – June 15th (all work due by 11:59 pm)

The course final will be on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The final will be given AFTER lunch and you are NOT allowed to be excused prior to 2 pm on the day of the final exam.

### **Test Schedule:**

Unit 1: Thursday, June 3

Unit 2: Friday, June 4

Unit 3: Monday, June 14

Unit 4: Tuesday, June 15

Unit 5: Wednesday, June 16

### **DC Trip Portion of the Course:**

We are departing for Washington, DC on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> around 11:45 pm and landing in DC on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> around 7 am. We will be checking in to our hotel and beginning our student program right after breakfast on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We will arrive home around noon on Saturday, June 12. The complete itinerary including travel, hotel, and program information will be sent out later this week.

NOTE: The time spent in DC is meant to be enjoyable as well as informative, but you must understand that your time in DC is essentially a working classroom and you will be assessed a summative grade for your work while in Washington, DC along with a separate grade for your behavior and adherence to the rules and requirements. The Close-Up Organization has been operating educational programs since the 1970s and they expect you to follow their rules or you will be sent home at your expense. Should you be removed from the trip, you will also be removed from the class and forfeit all monies paid to both Close-Up and Notre Dame Prep.

You are also representing NDP while you are in DC, so you will be held to the same rules of behavior while away as you would be if you were on campus. Any potential infraction will be dealt with as stated in the NDP handbook.