



United States History Government, and Politics
(USHGP)

***The Consent of the Governed:
Understanding United States
Government and Politics***



A hybrid course for high school juniors and seniors living abroad.

This course is designed for students who do not have access to a traditional American high school program, usually because their families are living overseas. The course has two primary goals: to provide students with a solid understanding of how the U.S. government and political system work, and to promote students' interest in our democracy.

The course will provide instruction in the foundations of American democracy, including exposure to our founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights — and the core principles they set out to establish and protect.

Students will learn about the structure of our government and political system, and how our elections work. They will examine the role of interest groups, the media, and money in our elections and government institutions. And they will study how individual citizens, groups, politicians, and the courts have all been engaged in defining the rights of the people, and the role of the government.

Perhaps most importantly, students will have an opportunity to consider current political issues, in the context of the American political system, from their own positions, and learn about their opportunities to participate in our democracy — even from overseas.

Students can choose to receive a traditional grade for the course, or simply a certificate of completion.

Over the course of nine four-week units, students will complete weekly assignments that aim to build their background knowledge and engage their interest. Each week, these assignments will include:

- some online reading.
- some completion of worksheets/ graphic organizers.
- some quizzes.
- some formation of opinions.
- participation in a weekly 75-minute Zoom class; time slots will vary, depending on global location.

The complete program cost is \$ 2,250 (USD). For families of FSOs stationed overseas, this cost may be fully reimbursable. Please contact your Financial Management Officer for guidance.

In order to receive their materials prior to the first class, students should be enrolled by early August. (Those enrolling later can still start the program, but will have to make do with pdf versions of all materials until their packets arrive.)

2023 -24 Academic Calendar & Units of Study

| Unit | Saturday Zoom Meetings | Unit Topics |
|------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | September 2, 9, 16, 23 | Foundations of American Government |
| 2 | September 30 & October 7, 14, 21 | Congress & the Legislative Branch |
| 3 | October 28 & November 4, 11, 18 | The Presidency & Executive Branch |
| 4 | November 25 & December 2, 9, 16 | Budget, Taxes, and Foreign Affairs |
| 5 | January 6, 13, 20, 27 | Interest Groups, Political Parties, & Media |
| 6 | February 3, 10, 17, 24 | Voters, Elections, & Campaign Finance |
| 7 | March 2, 9, 16, 23 | The Supreme Court & Judicial Branch |
| 8 | March 30 & April 6, 13, 20 | Defining the Rights of the People |
| 9 | April 27 & May 4, 11, 18 | Special Topics: Current Issues; Registering to Vote; Ways to Participate |

The program director and your instructor, Jeanie Wallace, holds a bachelor’s degree in social sciences from UC Berkeley, and a California Teaching Credential, earned at San Jose State University (San Jose, California). She taught U.S. history and government classes in the public school system in California for 34 years, but she’s not yet ancient!

Visit her website at MsWallaceOnline.weebly.com.

To inquire about the program, or to enroll, send an email to:

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