

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

## **Course Description:**

American Government meets Wisconsin State Academic Standards for Social Studies in Political Science and Citizenship. Students learn about a variety of historically-relevant and current topics involving political parties, the Electoral College, voting/elections, the Constitution, amendments, and federal and state government.

## **Political Science**

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- PS.1.1 Analyze how constitutionalism attempts to preserve fundamental societal values, protects individual freedoms and rights, promotes the general welfare, and responds to changing circumstances and beliefs by defining and limiting the powers of government [SS.PS.1.a.h]
- PS.1.2 Analyze the foundational ideas of the United States government which are embedded in founding era documents [SS.PS.1.b.h]
- PS.1.3 Analyze landmark Supreme Court decisions regarding how the Constitution and Bill of Rights limits the government, protects individual rights and promotes the general welfare [SS.PS.1.b.h]
- PS.2.1 Critique the struggle for suffrage and citizenship since the founding period [SS.PS.2.a.h]
- PS.2.2 Analyze the constitutional tension between protecting individual rights and promoting the general welfare and security of the country, as well as between majority rule and minority rights [SS.PS.2.a.h]
- PS.2.3 Demonstrate the skills necessary to participate in the election process (i.e., registering to vote, identifying and evaluating candidates and issues, and casting a ballot) [SS.PS.2.b.h]
- PS.2.4 Analyze how the US Supreme Court has allowed the restriction and enabled the expansion of rights for groups [SS.PS.2.c.h]
- PS.3.1 Create and evaluate solutions to increase voter participation [SS.PS.3.a.h]
- PS.3.2 Evaluate their role in government at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels [SS.PS.3.a.h]
- PS.3.3 Evaluate the role of various types of media in elections and functions of government [SS.PS.3.b.h]
- PS.3.4 Analyze how the United States political system is shaped by political parties, elections, and the election process, including the caucus and primary systems and procedures involved in voting [SS.PS.3.b.h]
- PS.3.5 Evaluate the structure and functions of governments at the local, state, tribal, national, and global levels [SS.PS.3.c.h]
- PS.4.1 Create arguments by researching and interpreting claims and counterclaims [SS.PS.4.a.h]
- PS.4.2 Analyze the effects of a political compromise with major historical impact [SS.PS.4.b.h]

## **Speaking and Listening**

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- SL.9-12.1 Clearly communicate and actively participate and listen, building on each others' ideas [SL.11-12.1]
- SL.9-10.4 Present information on their findings so listeners can follow their argument [SL.11-12.4]

West Salem High School is a Target-Based Grading and Reporting School. The learning targets above appear in the Skyward gradebook. Teachers provide feedback on each learning target to parents and students via the Skyward gradebook using a score of 3 (Proficient), 2 (Approaching), 1 (Needs Support), or 0 (No Evidence).