

COURSE OUTLINE

**Developmental Skills Lab 044
American Government**

I. Catalog Statement

Developmental Skills Lab 044 is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to earn high school credit for American Government. The course covers the principles behind American government and then explores the American political process. Each of the three branches of government are explored and well as local government systems. This course may be taken for high school credit.

Units — 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours — 100.0

Recommended preparation: ESL 040 or equivalent

Note: This is a self-paced course in an open-entry, open-exit lab environment. Successful completion of this course results in 5 high school credits (1/2 unit).

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading: 5; Writing: 5; Speaking/Listening: 4; Math: 1.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare and contrast systems of government;
2. trace the development of the American systems of government;
3. identify the organization and duties of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government;
4. trace the path of a bill from introduction through enactment as a law;
5. analyze the process and effects of checks and balances on the government's functions;
6. identify citizens' roles in the American political process and the impact and influence of voters.

IV. Course Content

- | | |
|---|----------|
| A. The Principles behind American Government | 21 hours |
| 1. Basic theories of government | |
| 2. Building the American system of government | |

3. The principles of the Constitution	
B. The American Political Process	20 hours
1. Defining individual rights	
2. The American political system	
3. The voter's role in the electoral process	
C. The Legislative Branch of American Government	20 hours
1. The organization and power of Congress	
2. How Congress makes laws	
3. Congress and the control of fiscal policy	
D. The Executive Branch of American Government	20 hours
1. The role of the President	
2. The making of foreign policy	
3. The Cabinet's role	
4. Independent government agencies	
E. The Judicial Branch of American Government	17 hours
1. The U.S. court system	
2. Landmark cases	
F. State and Local Government in the American System	17 hours
1. Government in the States	
2. Government in the cities and counties	

V. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. independent study using worksheets and texts;
2. individualized assistance.

VI. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

Students complete written exercises.

Chapter tests.

VII. **Textbook(s)**

Sanford W. and Green, C. Basic Principles of American Government, 2nd Ed
New York, New York: Amsco School Publications, Inc., 1992
10th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-87720-876-X (hardcover)

VIII. **Student Learning Outcome**

- identify and discuss how the four purposes of government are met in different systems of government;
- differentiate among the American systems of government;
- summarize the powers, duties and roles of the three branches of the federal government;
- list basic civil liberties of an American citizen and explain the constitutional protection provided;

- classify the organization and function of state and local government;
- identify and discuss citizens' roles in the American political process.