

## Course Syllabus

### Exploring Government

#### H.O.M.E. Group 2019-2020

**Instructor:** Joan Webb  
**Email:** viewfrompew@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** 248-840-3767

**Start Date:** September 6, 2019  
**End Date:** May 15, 2020  
**Class Times:** Fridays, 2:15-3:45

**Course Fees:** \$400/year. First Semester Tuition of \$200 is due at Meet the Teacher on August 13, 2019. Second Semester Tuition of \$200 is due on January 3, 2020. Complete tuition may be paid at beginning of first semester. Materials are purchased on your own; see Textbook and Supplies Needed section below.

#### Instructor Biography:

Joan Webb is a graduate of Oakland University with a career background in advertising and public relations. She homeschooled her two children through high school, during which time she discovered the Understanding the Times curriculum. With a passion to educate and equip young adults to defend a Biblical worldview, Joan began teaching Understanding the Times in multiple locations within the homeschool community. While teaching units on Government, Joan realized a need to further equip students in the structure, function and impact of government systems with an emphasis on U.S. Government. She has been actively equipping students since 2007. Joan has been a member of Faith Lutheran Church for thirty-two years.

#### Course Description

This course approaches the study of U.S. Government through the development of reasoning skills, knowledge of providential history, and discerning areas of subjectivity with Biblical wisdom. In addition to exploring the structure and functionality of the U.S. Government, at the national, state and local levels, students will learn about the first 8 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. They will read real Supreme Court cases and experience the decision making process as judges; the student judgements will then be compared with the actual case outcomes. Lastly, students will explore the spectrum of differences between political labels: liberal, conservative, left, right, democrat, republican, moderate, socialist, libertarian and communist in light of economic and social policies.

#### Skills & Topics

Exploring Government will cover federal, state and local government structure as well as contemporary issues in government. Special emphasis will be placed on the Biblical basis for government and the U.S. Constitution. Discussions will develop critical thinking and discernment skills necessary to navigate the many conflicting ideas found in the political arena.

#### Course Objectives/Goals

Students will receive foundational knowledge of government structure, how it functions and why it matters. They will come to understand the importance of the U.S. Constitution and how it defines the perimeters of our judicial system. Students will grow in their ability to discuss political topics with wisdom and confidence, recognize various political worldviews and understand their personal role in the U.S. governmental system.

## Textbook and Supplies Needed

### **Exploring Government (+Student Review Package) by Ray Notgrass**

The Exploring Government text *includes a separate book, “We Hold These Truths”*. The Student Review package adds a Quiz/Exam book, Student Review and an Answer Key (which you will not need, but comes in the package). If you purchase the textbook(s) used, a new Student Review Package can be purchased separately. These are available on Amazon or through Rainbow Books.

**You Decide - Applying the Bill of Rights to Real Cases, The Critical Thinking Co.** Available on Amazon, both new or used.

**Are You Liberal? Conservative? Or Confused? (Uncle Eric book), by Richard Maybury.** Available on Amazon new or used.

**Please supply a durable pocket folder for all exchanges of homework, quizzes and tests; this will be kept in the possession of the instructor. You will want to use a separate personal binder to keep all returned work together.**

## Classroom Policies

Upon entering the classroom, students will need to check their pocket folders for returned homework, quizzes, tests or any communication from the instructor. This is a confidential form of communication between the instructor and student; all physical exchanges will be done through this system. No personal use of cellphones will be permitted during class time; however, there may be occasions when the class will warrant use of electronic devices.

## Evaluation and Grading

%	Letter Grade
100-98	A +
97-93%	A
92-90%	A-
89-87%	B+
86-83%	B
82-80%	B-
79-77%	C+
76-73%	C
72-70%	C-
69-67%	D+
66-63%	D
62-60%	D-
9-0%	F

