

DR. ROBERT RICCI  
SUPERINTENDENT



VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.  
MAYOR

## SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Office of Superintendent

February 14, 1984

Ms. Rose Mendonca  
City Clerk  
Providence City Hall  
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

Providence City Council Resolution No. 72 calls for the teaching of government to eighth grade students.

I believe the enclosed course description of the eighth grade Government course satisfies the requirement of the resolution. This course is presently taught in Providence Public Schools.

Please communicate this information to the Providence City Council. Your assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert Ricci  
Superintendent

RR:ecm  
CC: Ms. Joyce Stevos

Enclosure

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAR 1 1984  
READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.  
 CLERK

FILED

FEB 16 10 09 AM '84

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
PROVISIONAL CLERK

RECEIVED  
A. ROSENBERG  
RECEIVED

IN CIVIL COURTS

## COURSE STATEMENT

Department/Area of Study Social Studies

COURSE TITLE Government Course Number

Length of Course 1 year No. of Credits  Grade Level(s) 8

Prerequisites

### Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to provide the students with an overview and understanding of at least three aspects of government. One is an understanding of the structure of the federal, state, and local system of government. Second is the practical aspect of being able to apply the laws of the system personally to develop the skills required of an effective citizenry. The last aspect of this course will allow students to examine the decision-making process used in governments in different places. The topic focused upon will be man's inhumanity to man. The question studied will be at what point do government and/or the citizenry move to protect the human rights of individuals.

### Course Goals:

1. The student will learn about the process of decision-making in government.
2. The student will be able to organize, analyze, interpret, and synthesize information obtained from various sources.
3. The student will be able to identify the central problem in a situation.
4. The student will be able to identify and locate sources of information and evaluate the reliability and relevance of these sources.
5. The student will be able to use reliable sources of information.
6. The student will develop the human relations skills and attitudes necessary to communicate with others.
7. The student will demonstrate a commitment to individual and group rights and acts in support of equal opportunity.
8. The student will demonstrate effective involvement in social interaction.

## Government Outline

### I. Why Government

- A. Purpose
- B. Identification of different situations where government is necessary

### II. Review of the beginning of American Government

- A. Articles of Confederation
- B. Need for a Constitution
- C. Constitutional Convention

### III. The Constitution of the United States

- A. 3 branches of government
  - 1. Executive
  - 2. Legislative
  - 3. Judicial
- B. System of checks and balances
- C. Compromises
- D. Provisions for Amendments
- E. Bill of Rights
- F. Ratification

### IV. Structure of the Federal Government

- A. Congress
  - 1. organization
  - 2. structure
  - 3. decision-making in Congress
- B. The Federal Budget
  - 1. source of funds
  - 2. deciding on how to spend the funds
  - 3. The budget process
- C. The Executive Branch
  - 1. The President's many jobs
  - 2. Advisors to President
  - 3. Decision-making in the Presidency

D. Federal Agencies

1. structure and function
2. decision-making
3. lobbying

E. Federal Courts

1. organization
2. purpose
3. The Supreme Court and its work

F. Interest Groups

1. need and purpose
2. how they influence the government
3. laws controlling interest groups

G. Political Parties

1. Development of the political parties in the U. S.
2. structure
3. role of political parties

H. Political participation

1. ways citizens can participate in government
2. reasons: rights and responsibilities

V. Structure of State Government

A. State Legislature

1. powers
2. structure
3. State Representatives

G. Governor and State Agencies

1. structure of Executive Board
2. role of Governor
3. role of State Agencies

C. State Courts

1. State Court structure
2. Criminal and Civil Cases
3. Lawyers and the Court System

## VI. Structure of Local Government

### A. Local Governments

1. kinds of Local Governments
2. County system
3. City services
4. how city services are paid

### B. City Government

1. structure
2. political divisions in a city
3. decision-making in city government

## VII. Urban Problems

### A. Growth of Cities

### B. Problems of Cities

### C. Federal aid to the cities

## VIII. Consumer Decision-making

### A. The American Economic System

### B. Producing goods and services

### C. Buying goods and services

### D. Banking, Loans, Credit

### E. Consumer Protection Laws

## IX. Decision-making and Human Rights

### A. The American Indian Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decision
4. Effect of the inhumanity

### B. The Black Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decisions
4. Effect of the inhumanity

C. The Armenian Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decisions
4. Effect of the inhumanity

D. The Jewish Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decisions
4. Effect of the inhumanity

E. The South African Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decisions
4. Effect of the inhumanity

F. The Vietnamese Experience

1. Governmental policy affecting human rights
2. Decisions and moral dilemmas
3. Relationship between history and the decisions
4. Effect of the inhumanity