

# CLASS CURRICULUM

**Class Title:** Political Theory and its Application in Contemporary Society

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**Max/Cap Class Size:** 30

**Target Age range:** 9th - 11th graders

**Slides:** [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BI-NXHTcOn8Sj4oS-o67Yc0rDUGfAHK\\_sUEn0lXBpw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1BI-NXHTcOn8Sj4oS-o67Yc0rDUGfAHK_sUEn0lXBpw/edit?usp=sharing)

## Overview:

General	Class Notes
Topic 1: Systems of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Student introductions</li> <li>● Distinguishing between the three branches of a basic government: executive, legislative, and judicial</li> <li>● Overview of distinctions between federal states and unitary states.</li> <li>● Distinctions between a democratic regime and an authoritarian regime</li> <li>● Indications of Democratization</li> <li>● Class discussion</li> </ul>
Topic 2: Campaigns & Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How national and local elections work. Analysis of the electoral college and its controversy within the modern political debate. Insight into elections, or the lack thereof, in China, the U.K., and the U.S.</li> <li>● Overview of campaign finance reform throughout history in the U.S. and U.K.</li> <li>● Overview of redistricting in the US and the issue of Gerrymandering.</li> <li>● Analyzing the importance of civil society and why it's crucial for a thriving democracy.</li> <li>● The role of interest groups in society. Analysis of corporate societies &amp; pluralist societies around the world.</li> <li>● Class discussion</li> </ul>
Topic 3: Political Ideology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explanation on the distinction between conservatism and liberalism</li> <li>● Insight into social literature on the psychological differences between the political left and right</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Larger class discussion on their views on the role of government in society, fiscal policy, and interventionism</li> <li>● Class discussion</li> </ul>
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## Detailed Plan:

### Topic 1: SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT

- Introductions - 5 minutes
- Branches of gov./checks and balances - 9 minutes
- Unitary vs. Federal States - 9 minutes
- Authoritarian vs. Democratic Regime/Democratization - 9 minutes
- Discussion Period - 8 minutes

### Topic 2: CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

- Campaign Finance History and Manifestations - 9 minutes
- National and Local Elections - 9 minutes
- Redistricting and Gerrymandering - 9 minutes
- Discussion Period - 8 minutes

### Topic 5: POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

- Political Ideology - 9 minutes
- Political Parties - 9 minutes
- Morality and Polarization - 9 minutes
- Discussion Period - 9 minutes