

# **ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus V108: People and Politics**

## **Course Description**

The study of specialized, domain-centric words forms the heart of the middle-school Vocabulary Curriculum. In V108, students focus on words used in politics. Upon completing this course, students will be familiar with an extensive number of vocabulary words used in political science and social studies.

## **Course Objectives and Student Competencies**

Students will:

1. Master an extensive list of English vocabulary:
  - Words necessary for success in social studies and history.
  - Words necessary for success in government and debate.
2. Learn key points of the history and development of the government of the United States.
3. Compare and contrast the government of the U.S. with other democracies, with an emphasis on parliamentary democracies.

## **Major Topics:**

Direct vs. Representative Democracies  
The Three Branches of the U.S. Government  
Political Parties and Elections

## **Class Structure:**

1. Vocabulary Quiz
2. Introduction of new words.
3. Text Analysis (including comparative analysis of online sources)
4. Explicit definition of new vocabulary
5. Application of new vocabulary:
  - Role-play as different political and elected figures

**Course Schedule:**

Date	Topics	Exemplary Vocabulary Words
Week 1	Democracy	Direct vs. representative democracy, Majority rule, plurality, bicameralism, Articles of Confederation
Week 2	Federalism	Federalist, enumerated powers vs inherent powers
Week 3	The Constitution	Separation of powers, checks and balances, primary, initiative, referendum, judicial review, executive order
Week 4	Political Parties	Partisan, caucus, primary, convention, proportional representation, delegate
Week 5	The Media, PAC's and Economic Policy	Advocacy, agenda, fiscal, inflation, excise tax, deficit, tariff, progressive tax, debt, protectionism, offshoring, regulation, monopoly, trust, collective bargaining, union, injunction, quid pro quo
Week 6	Campaigns and Elections	Midterm, electoral college, bipartisan, suffrage
Week 7	The Legislative Branch	Constituent, reapportionment, redistricting, Gerrymandering, incumbent, bicameralism, filibuster, whip, cloture, earmark, rider, pork barrel spending
Week 8	The Executive Branch	Parliament, veto, impeachment, executive privilege, cabinet, mandate, bureaucracy,
Week 9	The Judiciary Branch	Judicial review, defendant, jurisdiction, precedent, docket, Amicus curiae, dissenting vs. concurring opinions,
Week 10	The Bill of Rights and Amending the Constitution	Writ of habeas corpus, due process, voucher, libel, sedition, civil disobedience, naturalization, expatriation, eminent domain, profiling, indictment, double jeopardy
Week 11	Foreign Policy	Isolationism, unilateralism, deterrence, sanctions