

Course Syllabus

Description:

Students investigate key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study the structure of the Constitution throughout the course, as well as its implications for the functioning of government today. Other foundational documents, landmark Supreme Court cases, and opportunities for research and civic action are key elements in this rich course that prepares students to be informed and active participants in U.S. society.

Estimated Completion Time: 1 segment / 16–18 weeks.

Major Topics and Concepts:

Segment I:

Module 01: Constitutional Democracy

- 01.00 Constitutional Democracy Introduction
- 01.01 Why Government?
- 01.02 Founding Principles
- 01.03 The Constitution
- 01.04 Federalists v. Anti-Federalists
- 01.05 Separation of Powers
- 01.06 Federalism
- 01.07 The Power Debate Today
- 01.08 Constitutional Democracy Review and DBA
- 01.09 Constitutional Democracy Exam

Module 02: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

- 02.00 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Introduction
- 02.01 The First Amendment
- 02.02 Security v. Speech
- 02.03 Liberty v. Safety
- 02.04 The Accused
- 02.05 Due Process
- 02.06 Equal Protection
- 02.07 And Justice for All
- 02.08 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Review and DBA
- 02.09 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Exam

Module 03: Interaction Among Branches

- 03.00 Interaction Among Branches Introduction
- 03.01 Congress

- 03.02 Congressional Behavior
- 03.03 The Presidency
- 03.04 Executive Power
- 03.05 The Supreme Court
- 03.06 The Bureaucracy
- 03.07 Checks, Balances, and Accountability
- 03.08 Interaction Among Branches Review and DBA
- 03.09 Interaction Among Branches Exam

Module 04: Political Culture and Participation

- 04.00 Political Culture and Participation Introduction
- 04.01 Political Socialization
- 04.02 Ideology
- 04.03 Public Opinion
- 04.04 The Media
- 04.05 The Parties
- 04.06 Interest Groups
- 04.07 The Voters
- 04.08 Elections
- 04.09 Campaigns
- 04.10 AP Practice Exam
- 04.11 Political Culture and Participation Review and DBA
- 04.12 Political Culture and Participation Exam
- 04.13 Segment Exam

Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:

To achieve success, students are expected to submit work in each course weekly. Students can learn at their own pace; however, “any pace” still means that students must make progress in the course every week. To measure learning, students complete self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, projects, discussion-based assessments, and discussions. Students are expected to maintain regular contact with teachers; the minimum requirement is monthly. When teachers, students, and parents work together, students are successful.



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