

U.S. Government Course Syllabus

Description:

Responsible citizenship, including civil and political participation, is essential to maintain a government that truly represents "We the People." In this course, students examine the principles that inspired the Constitution and other founding documents of the United States. Students will study how these principles form the foundation of the U.S. federal government and distinguish it from those of other nations. They then examine the structures and functions of government to see how those principles are put into practice each day. This includes how the levels of government interact with one another. Finally, students extend these concepts to the role of the individual within U.S. civil society. They explore protections and limitations on individual rights protected through the Bill of Rights and acts of government over time. Students examine how, as individuals and as part of groups, citizens can influence public policy and help ensure the vitality of the constitutional republic.

Estimated Completion Time: 1 Segments / 16–18 weeks

Major Topics and Concepts

Segment One

Module 01: We the People

- Purposes of Government
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Constitutional Convention
- Principled Debate (ratification of the Constitution)
- The Constitution
- The Bill of Rights
- Comparing Governments (forms and systems)
- The US in the World (foreign policy)

Module 02: Constitutional Government

- Constitutional Powers (types and examples)
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- What the Bureaucracy Does for You
- The Judicial Branch
- Judicial Review
- Judicial Decisions
- Federalism in the Real World

Module 03: Civic Participation

- Citizenship
- Your Civic Duty (duties and responsibilities)
- The Common Good
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Public Policy (including analysis)
- Policy Influencers (political parties, interest groups, the media)
- Inform Yourself (analyzing and evaluating political messaging)
- Voting and Elections

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 parent work together, students are successful.

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