

American Government Civics – Course Details

Semester Long Course

Course Objectives

The foundation for this course is the American Government course description. Upon completion of the course, students will have an increased understanding of American government, its historical and democratic foundation, its constitutional framework, and the importance of becoming active participants in government.

Scope and Sequence

Module 1: Intern Orientation

- Course Motif, Course Information, Selecting Your Pace, Honors Credit
- Chaos v. Order—Is Government Necessary, What is Government
- Origins of Modern Government—Greece, Rome, Western Europe
- Types of Government—Democracy, Autocracy, Oligarchy, Monarchy

Module 2: National Archives

- The Enlightenment—Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire, Montesquieu
- Declaration of Independence
- Articles of Confederation—Shay’s Rebellion
- Constitution—Ratification of, Federalist
- Branches of Government—Executive, Legislative, Judicial
- Checks and Balances—Separation of Powers
- Federalism

Module 3: Supreme Court

- Structure of the Federal Court System
- Types of Law, Types of Juries
- State and Local Courts
- The Supreme Court—Selection of Justices, Judicial Review, Supreme Court cases
- The Bill of Rights, Jury Duty, The Amendments
- Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Patriot Act

Module 4: Capitol Hill

- Structure of the Legislative Branch—the House and the Senate
- Powers of Congress
- Congressional Elections

- Political Parties
- Special Interest Groups
- How a Bill Becomes a Law

Module 5: White House

- Structure of the Executive Branch—Qualifications, Terms
- Presidential Elections—Electoral College
- Presidential Cabinet
- Media and Politics
- Foreign, Domestic, and Economic Policy
- Review of Recent Presidents
- Presidential Impeachment

Module 6: Local Congressional Office

- State Governments—Federal, State and Concurrent Powers, Role of the Governor
- State Constitutions
- Citizenship—Rights and Responsibilities
- Voting- Requirements, Registration and Casting a Vote
- Local Governments—Structure and Services
- Careers in Government—FBI, CIA, Peace Corp...
- American Symbol