In U.S. Government and Politics, students examine the history, principles, and function of the political system established by the U.S. Constitution. Starting with a basic introduction to the role of government in society and the philosophies at the heart of American democracy, this course provides students with the knowledge needed to be informed and empowered participants in the U.S. political system.

Through critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to conduct research, analyze sources, make arguments, and take informed action. In written assignments, students address critical questions about U.S. politics and the role of individual Americans in the politics and political organizations. In discussion activities, students respond to political opinions, take a position, and defend their own claims. Formative and summative assessments provide students — and teachers — with ample opportunities to check in, review, and evaluate students’ progress in the course.

This course is built to state standards and informed by the College, Career, and Civil Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards and the National Standard for Civics and Government.

Length: One semester

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO U.S. GOVERNMENT

LESSON 1: ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Checkup: Active Reading Strategies
Learn eight important strategies for reading social studies texts.
Duration: 0 hrs 20 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Working with Sources
Learn appropriate methods for working with and evaluating social studies sources.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Working with Sources
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Constructing Arguments
Learn how to construct arguments and use evidence from social studies sources to support claims.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Constructing Arguments
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Argue Your Case
Gather evidence and construct an argument on whether voting matters.
Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 2: IDEAS ABOUT GOVERNMENT

Study: How Governments Function
Compare and contrast different forms and functions of government.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: How Governments Function
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points
Discuss: The Purposes of Government
Examine the purposes of government and discuss the ways in which government influences people's lives.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Types of Democracies
Learn about the origins of democracy and differentiate between types of democracies.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Types of Democracies
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Comparing Governments
Compare the structures, principles, and purposes of the governments of three different nation-states.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 3: ORIGINS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT

Study: Inspiration for Independence
Analyze Enlightenment ideas reflected in the Declaration of Independence.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Inspiration for Independence
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Read: Enlightened Ideas
Analyze the writings of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Baron de Montesquieu.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Documents Leading to the Constitution
Analyze the principles of government reflected in landmark historical documents that influenced the framing of the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Early American Governments
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Examining the Founding Principles
Compare and evaluate the ideals and principles in the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: INTRODUCTION TO U.S. GOVERNMENT

Review: Introduction to U.S. Government
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Introduction to U.S. Government
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Introduction to U.S. Government
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

UNIT 2: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

LESSON 1: ESTABLISHING THE CONSTITUTION
Study: Arguments and Compromises
Learn about the history of the U.S. Constitution and the historical context of the Constitutional Convention.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Arguments and Compromises
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Ratifying the Constitution
Examine the debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Ratifying the Constitution
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: Whose Side Are You On?
Debate the views of Federalists and Anti-Federalists over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: EXAMINING THE CONSTITUTION

Read: Reading the Constitution, Part I
Analyze the text of the Preamble and Articles I through III of the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: The Parts of the Constitution
Learn about the structure and intended purposes of the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Parts of the Constitution
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Read: Reading the Constitution, Part II
Analyze the text of Articles IV through VII and the 27 amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Principles of the Constitution
Learn about the major principles that serve as a foundation for the U.S. Constitution.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Principles of the Constitution
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Applying Constitutional Principles
Evaluate how the Constitution reflects the core political principles of the U.S. government.
Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 3: FEDERALISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Study: The Division of Powers
Learn about the powers the Constitution gives to the federal government and the powers it reserves for the states.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Division of Powers
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Federalism in Action
Examine the history of federalism in the United States, including the effects of the landmark Supreme Court case
**LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

**Review: The U.S. Constitution**
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

**Test (CS): The U.S. Constitution**
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

**Test (TS): The U.S. Constitution**
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

**UNIT 3: INSTITUTIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**LESSON 1: THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**Study: The Presidency**
Examine the roles, responsibilities, and powers of the U.S. president.

**Quiz: The Presidency**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**Journal: The President's Power**
Analyze and evaluate how the power of the American presidency has grown over time, particularly during times of war.

**Study: The Federal Bureaucracy**
Learn about the structure of the federal bureaucracy and the variety of organizations it comprises.

**Quiz: The Federal Bureaucracy**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

**Practice: Comparing Executive Organizations**
Compare the structure and responsibilities of organizations that make up the federal bureaucracy.

**LESSON 2: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**Study: Understanding the Federal Justice System**
Examine the structure, functions, and organization of the federal judicial system.

**Quiz: Understanding the Federal Justice System**
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Read: Marbury v. Madison
Read excerpts from and evaluate the influence of the landmark Supreme Court case Marbury v. Madison.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: The Supreme Court
Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the Supreme Court.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Supreme Court
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Overturning a Supreme Court Decision
Research ways in which Supreme Court decisions can be overturned.
Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 3: THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Study: The Setup and Powers of Congress
Examine the structure and powers of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Setup and Powers of Congress
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: The Legislative Process
Examine the legislative process and learn how the federal government creates new laws.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Legislative Process
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Comparing the Branches
Compare the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of the federal government.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: INSTITUTIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Review: Institutions of the Federal Government
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Institutions of the Federal Government
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Institutions of the Federal Government
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

UNIT 4: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

LESSON 1: FOUNDATIONAL FREEDOMS

Study: The Bill of Rights In Depth
Learn about the context and meaning of the amendments in the Bill of Rights.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Bill of Rights In Depth
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Study: First Amendment Freedoms
Examine the freedoms protected by the First Amendment and analyze how the interpretation of these freedoms has changed over time.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Quiz: First Amendment Freedoms
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: We Hold These Truths
Evaluate how the ideal of natural rights represented in the Declaration of Independence has been interpreted over time.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: INTERPRETING CIVIL LIBERTIES

Study: Due Process and Incorporation
Analyze due process as represented in the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Due Process and Incorporation
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Liberties in the Court
Evaluate how significant Supreme Court decisions have affected citizens' civil liberties.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Liberties in the Court
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Freedom of the Press in Context
Construct an argument evaluating the Supreme Court's decision in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 3: FIGHTING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Journal: Liberties and Rights
Compare the protections represented by civil liberties and civil rights and evaluate their importance in everyday life.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Equal Protection
Analyze the principle of equal protection and its effect on individual rights.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Equal Protection
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Read: The Voting Rights Act of 1965
Read excerpts from the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and analyze how Congress used the act to ensure African Americans were not denied their rights.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Study: Rights for Marginalized Groups
Analyze the fight for civil rights in the United States and examine the role played by ordinary citizens in winning rights for marginalized groups.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points
Quiz: Rights for Marginalized Groups
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: The Complications of Affirmative Action
Examine the affirmative action debate and analyze the effects of the decision in the landmark Supreme Court case *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS
Review: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

UNIT 5: CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

LESSON 1: INSTITUTIONS WITH INFLUENCE
Study: Political Parties
Learn about the organization, role, and influence of political parties in the United States.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Political Parties
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Interest Groups
Analyze the role and influence of interest groups in the American political process.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Interest Groups
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: The Power of Lobbies
Research and evaluate the influence lobbyists have on public opinion and public policy.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: The Role of the Media
Analyze the role and influence of the media in the American political process.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Role of the Media
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Leveraging Your Links
Select a civic issue, identify a political party or interest group that agrees with your position, and outline a media plan to accomplish your goal.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS
Study: How Elections Work
Learn about the election process at various levels of U.S. government.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: How Elections Work
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: Campaign Finance and *Citizens United*
Write about the debates over campaign finance reform.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: The Race for the Presidency
Analyze the processes of a presidential election, including the function of the Electoral College.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Race for the Presidency
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: A Hidden Factor
Analyze how reapportionment and redistricting are used to achieve political goals.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 3: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Study: State Governments and How They Work
Learn about the functions, organization, and influence of governments at the state level.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: State Governments and How They Work
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Government at the Local Level
Learn about the functions, organization, and influence of governments at the local level.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Government at the Local Level
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Taking Action in Your State
Research and evaluate different options for resolving a labor or employment issue at the state level.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: CITIZEN CONNECTIONS

Review: Citizen Connections
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Citizen Connections
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Citizen Connections
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

UNIT 6: PUBLIC POLICY
LESSON 1: UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC POLICY

Study: Introduction to Public Policy
Examine how public policy is created and implemented at different levels of government.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Introduction to Public Policy
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: A Case Study
Research and evaluate the environmental policies of two presidents.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: DOMESTIC POLICY

Study: Social Policy
Examine significant issues in social policy and analyze how these issues reflect national values and principles.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Social Policy
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: Domestic Economic Policy
Learn about U.S. fiscal and monetary policies and how they affect the American economy.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Domestic Economic Policy
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Discuss: The Controversy Over Health Care
Examine and take a position on the debate over the government's role in health care.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 3: FOREIGN POLICY

Study: The Workings of U.S. Foreign Policy
Learn about the governmental roles and structures involved in creating and implementing U.S. foreign policy.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Workings of U.S. Foreign Policy
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: The United States in the World
Examine U.S. foreign policy influences and assess how U.S. foreign policy affects other countries.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The United States in the World
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Assessing Our Goals
Analyze major foreign policy goals and write an argumentative essay stating which goal you feel should be the top priority for U.S. foreign policy in the coming years.
Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: PUBLIC POLICY

Review: Public Policy
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
UNIT 7: CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

LESSON 1: THE ROLE OF CITIZENS

Study: American Citizenship
Examine the processes by which different categories of people become U.S. citizens and evaluate how the constitutional definition of citizenship has changed over time.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: American Citizenship
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Study: The Obligations of a Citizen
Examine the obligations and responsibilities of U.S. citizens and evaluate the importance of civic participation.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Obligations of a Citizen
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Do We Earn Our Rights?
Analyze the civic responsibilities and duties associated with exercising one's individual rights.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: VOTING

Study: Voting Rights in the United States
Learn the ways in which voting rights in the United States have expanded and changed over time.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Voting Rights in the United States
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Becoming a Voter
Research how someone registers to vote in your state.
Duration: 0 hrs 45 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Informed Voting
Learn about the importance of voting in the democratic process and what it takes to become an informed voter.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Informed Voting
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Voter Turnout and Its Effects
Analyze the role voter turnout plays in electing officials at the federal level.
Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 3: FURTHER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
Journal: Your Political Beliefs
Reflect on how your political beliefs have been formed.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: Methods of Participation
Analyze methods of political participation beyond voting.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Methods of Participation
Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.
Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Project: Making a Difference
Compose a letter to a government official advocating a position on an important political or public policy issue that you have researched and evaluated.
Duration: 2 hrs Scoring: 40 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Review: Civic and Political Participation
Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.
Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): Civic and Political Participation
Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Civic and Political Participation
Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

UNIT 8: SEMESTER REVIEW AND EXAM

LESSON 1: SEMESTER REVIEW AND EXAM

Practice: Preparing for the Citizenship Exam
Students take a practice U.S. citizenship civics test and create a plan of study for passing the exam.
Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 10 points

Review: Semester Review
Prepare for the final exam by reviewing key concepts and skills you have learned in this course.
Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 0 points

Exam: Semester Exam
Take a computer-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.
Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 points

Final Exam: Semester Exam
Take a teacher-scored exam to assess what you have learned in this course.
Duration: 0 hrs 50 mins Scoring: 50 points