

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 guiz 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 guiz 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 guiz 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

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Federalism in Action

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Overlapping Powers of Government

Analyze potential conflicts between federal and state governments.

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins Scoring: 30 points

LESSON 4: WRAP-UP: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Review: The U.S. Constitution

Prepare for the unit test by reviewing key concepts and skills.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 0 points

Test (CS): The U.S. Constitution

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): The U.S. Constitution

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

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.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Presidency

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Journal: The President's Power

Analyze and evaluate how the power of the American presidency has grown over time, particularly during times of war.

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

Study: The Federal Bureaucracy

Learn about the structure of the federal bureaucracy and the variety of organizations it comprises.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: The Federal Bureaucracy

Take a guiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

Practice: Comparing Executive Organizations

Compare the structure and responsibilities of organizations that make up the federal bureaucracy.

Duration: 1 hr Scoring: 20 points

LESSON 2: THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Study: Understanding the Federal Justice System

Examine the structure, functions, and organization of the federal judicial system.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 0 points

Quiz: Understanding the Federal Justice System

Take a quiz to assess your understanding of the material.

Duration: 0 hrs 15 mins Scoring: 20 points

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 40 mins Scoring: 0 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

 $\ \, \text{Evaluate how the ideal of natural rights represented in the Declaration of Independence has been interpreted over time. } \\$

Duration: 0 hrs 30 mins Scoring: 10 points

LESSON 2: INT ERPRET ING CIVIL LIBERT IES

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 guiz 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 guiz 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 guiz 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 guiz 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 guiz 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.

Test (CS): Public Policy

Take a computer-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

Test (TS): Public Policy

Take a teacher-scored test to assess what you have learned in this unit.

Duration: 0 hrs 40 mins Scoring: 40 points

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 guiz 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