

Course Description:

This course explores the basics of civics and government at the federal, state, and local levels. Civics provides students the background and examples of ways to engage participation in the government. This course provides real-world connections between democratic ideals and practical activities. Your final grades are based on your ability to show what you have learned through a variety of assessment types: workbook questions, discussion boards, checkpoints, unit exams, a final exam, and a multistep project.

Major Concepts

- The Foundations of Government
- Role of American Citizens
- The Three Branches of the Federal Government
- Levels of Government in the United States, Decision-Making, and Public Policy
- Elections, Political Parties, and Interest Groups
- The Legal System

Course Objectives:

- Analyze the ideas and complaints set forth in the Declaration of Independence.
- Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government.
- Explain the rights protected under the Bill of Rights.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Explain how the media influences political information.
- Describe the structure and function of the three branches of government.
- Analyze domestic policy decision-making at the local, state, and national levels.
- Describe ways citizens may participate in government and the political process.
- Evaluate the impact of Constitutional rights on individuals and society.

Required Materials:

- word-processing software
- Internet browser

Schedule of Work:

Unit 1: Foundations of the US Government

- Lesson 1: Moving toward Independence
- Lesson 2: Creating the Constitution
- Lesson 3: The Constitution
- Lesson 4: The Bill of Rights
- Lesson 5: Amending the Constitution

Unit 2: American Citizens

- Lesson 6: Citizenship

- Lesson 7: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens
- Lesson 8: Other Roles in Society
- Lesson 9: Your Role in Society
- Lesson 10: How Movements Change Society

Unit 3: The Federal Government

- Lesson 11: The Legislative Branch
- Lesson 12: The Executive Branch
- Lesson 13: The Judicial Branch
- Lesson 14: Checks and Balances
- Lesson 15: Other Types of Government

Unit 4: State and Local Government

- Lesson 16: State Government
- Lesson 17: Local Government
- Lesson 18: Federal and State Powers
- Lesson 19: State and Local Services, Project Rough Draft
- Lesson 20: The Impact of Public Policy

Unit 5: Political Parties and Interest Groups

- Lesson 21: The Two-Party System
- Lesson 22: Candidates and the Media
- Lesson 23: Elections, Project Final Draft
- Lesson 24: Voting
- Lesson 25: Interest Groups

Unit 6: The Legal System

- Lesson 26: Society and the Law
- Lesson 27: How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Lesson 28: Types of Laws
- Lesson 29: Supreme Court Decision: Legal and Political Impact
- Lesson 30: Units 1–6 Review and Final Exam