

Course Description:

US Government (1 of 1) examines the history and philosophy of the United States government and the guiding principles of democracy. Topics include: analysis of the United States Constitution, functions and duties of the three branches of government, the role of the Supreme Court, civic engagement in the political process, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, government systems of the world, political parties, interest groups, and the media in shaping the government.

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:

- Explain the ancient roots of government (including Greek and Roman) by tracing the influence they have had on modern government.
- Identify the major contributions of Locke, Montesquieu, Machiavelli, and Blackstone to western government by describing how each one influenced political thought.
- Describe the influence of the English Bill of Rights on American government by identifying the political changes this document signified.
- Compare and contrast different forms of government by constructing expository paragraphs using historical data to support your ideas.
- Use historical research and study to evaluate the different forms of government in human history.
- Analyze the text of the Declaration of Independence by summarizing its main points.
- Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the US Constitution by indicating the advantages of each one.
- Analyze the significance of the Bill of Rights by describing its creation and purpose.
- Analyze the complex influence that slavery, states' rights, and the civil rights movement have had on the US Constitution.
- Identify the duties and responsibilities of the various levels of government (municipal, county, state, tribal, and national).
- Determine the causes and effects of the checks and balances system in the federal government of the United States by outlining the interactions among the three branches.
- Examine the collapse of the Soviet Union by analyzing the failure of economic and social attempts at reform in the 1980s.
- Determine the legal route to gaining official citizenship in the United States of America by exploring the process of naturalization, including the citizenship test.

Required Materials:

All Graphic Organizers can be found in the Graphic Organizer Library, as well as each specific activity plan.

Course Overview:

Unit 1: The History of Civics and Government

The History of Government - Feudalism and Change - Enlightenment - Colonial Governments - Creating a New Government

Unit 2: Constitution and Federation

The Political Party Process - Federal Government and the States - Slavery, States' Rights, and Segregation - Civil Liberties and Citizenship - Political Action

Unit 3: Citizens and Their Government

Local Government - County Government - State Government - Tribal Government - National Government

Unit 4: Branches of Government

The Executive Branch - The Legislative Branch - The Judicial Branch - The Federal Reserve - The Media

Unit 5: International Relations

International Relations - International Trade - Global Conflicts - International Issues and Commerce - Immigration and Citizenship

Unit 6: Review and Exam