



U.S. Government- Course Syllabus

Description:

This course provides students with a practical understanding of the principles and procedures of government. The course begins by establishing the origins and founding principles of American government. After a rigorous review of the Constitution and its Amendments, students investigate the development and extension of civil rights and liberties. Lessons also introduce influential Supreme Court decisions to demonstrate the impact and importance of constitutional rights. The course builds on this foundation by guiding students through the function of government today and the role of citizens in the civic process and culminates in an examination of public policy and the roles of citizens and organizations in promoting policy approaches.

Textbook: United States Government – Excel Education Systems, Inc. 2020 ©

Course objectives:

- Investigate the founding principles that guided the establishment of the U.S. government.
- Analyze the civil rights and liberties that are granted to United States citizens.
- Understand the structures and procedures of local, state, and federal governments.
- Discover how you can participate in government by voting, running for office, meeting civic obligations, and petitioning your representatives.

Contents:

Semester A

- Module 1: Political Theory/U.S. Constitution
 - America’s Foundation
 - The Founding Fathers
 - The Federalist Papers
- Module 2: The Constitution
 - Limiting the Role of Government
 - Amending the Constitution
 - Freedoms Guaranteed by Bill of Rights
- Module 3: The Federalist System
 - Checks and Balances
 - Federalism
 - Limits on National and State Governments

Semester B

- Module 4: Three Branches of Government
 - Structure/Functions of the Branches
 - Presidential Election Procedures
 - Court Cases and Guaranteed Rights
- Module 5: Governmental Policies
 - Fiscal and Regulatory Policies
 - Government and Free Enterprise
 - Policies and their Effects
- Module 6: The Political Process
 - Voting and Public Office
 - Political Parties/Electoral Process
 - Rights and Obligations of Citizens

Grading Scale

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = under 59%

Grade Weighting

- Quizzes..... 70%
- Mid-Term/Final Exams.... 30%
- 100%