

U.S. Government

(Available in English and Spanish)

SCOPE OF COURSE

This course is a one semester offering divided into five units of study. Essential questions addressed start with the historic basis for the United States' form of government and the events leading up to the writing of the U.S. Constitution; its structure, purpose, guarantees and functionality; the three branches of government; and how the separation of powers provides for checks and balances within the system. From there it moves on to the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and how it is obtained, the role of politics, and how public policy impacts both local and global issues. Activities foster direct connections with local governance and topics of concern. Available in both English and Spanish.

SEQUENCE OF SKILLS

Unit 1 – Birth of American Democracy

- Basis and types of Government
- Events leading to the American Revolution
- The influence of the French and Indian War
- Contributions of historical individuals
- The Declaration of Independence
- Separation from England
- Post-revolution government under the Articles of Confederation
- A new government begins

Unit 2 – United States Constitution

- Structure and purpose of the Constitution
- The Constitution of the United States
- The process of amending the Constitution
- The Amendments to the Constitution
- Symbols of American culture

Unit 3 – Separation of Powers

- Separation of powers
- The Constitution and the Legislative Branch
- The Constitution and the Executive Branch
- Organization of the Executive Branch
- The Constitution and the Judicial Branch
- Supreme Court decisions

Unit 4 – Citizenship and Politics

- Becoming a citizen
- Responsibilities of citizenship
- The voting process
- Influencing the government
- Political parties
- Government revenues
- Media influences

Unit 5 – Public Policy

- Civics
- Politics and demographics
- National economy
- Global economy
- Domestic policy
- Foreign policy
- The United Nations