

U.S. Government

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: SS3315

Grade level: 9–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

This semester-long 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. Throughout the course, students examine primary and secondary sources, including political cartoons, essays, and judicial opinions. Students also sharpen their writing skills in shorter tasks and assignments, and practice outlining and drafting skills by writing full informative and argumentative essays.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Investigate the founding principles that guided the establishment of the United States government.
- Analyze the civil rights and liberties that are granted to United States citizens, and understand the influence of constitutional amendments and Supreme Court decisions that have developed these rights.
- 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.
- Read complex texts at grade level.
- Increase academic and domain-specific vocabulary.
- Engage in routine writing in response to texts, concepts, and scenarios.
- Use research skills to access, interpret, and apply information from sources you have gathered.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	15%
Essays	10%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	30%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Projects	5%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

Unit 1: Introduction to American Government

Unit 2: The Constitution

Unit 3: Civil Rights and Liberties

Unit 4: Government Institutions

Unit 5: Civics and Participation

Unit 6: Public Policy