



Online Courses for High School Students

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Participation In Government

This course will guide students through an in-depth study of the history, structure, and guiding principles of American government. The first unit will review the origins of government in general and American government in particular—from the earliest models for democracy to the founding documents that created a federalist system of government in the U.S. Several units will help students explore the roles and responsibilities of each branch of government as well as the impact that the Constitution has had and continues to have on the way government works and on the lives of individual Americans.

Prerequisite: None

Course Length: One Semester

Required Text: None

The Road to Democracy

- The History of Government
- Forms of Government
- Comparing Governments
- Origins of Democracy
- Ideas Behind Democracy
- Founding Principles
- Founding Documents
- Founding Debates
- A Work in Progress

Structure of U.S. Government

- The Structure of Our Democracy
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- Relationships Among the Branches
- Checks and Balances
- Levels of Government (Federal, State, Local)
- Comparing Levels of Government
- Relationships and Conflicts Among Levels
- Presenting Government

How Government Works

- Roles of Government
- Setting the Agenda
- Domestic Policy
- Foreign Policy
- Evaluating Foreign Policy
- Government Agencies
- Laws, Regulations and Policies
- Research and Recordkeeping
- The Courts
- Taxes, Revenue and Spending

Rights and Responsibilities

- The Bill of Rights
- Know Your Rights
- The Supreme Court and Individual Rights
- Debates Over Individual Rights
- Definitions of Citizenship
- Legal Obligations of Citizenship
- Civic Obligations of Citizenship
- How Individuals Can Influence Government
- Citizens' Groups and Movements
- Modern Democracies: A Balancing Act

Influences on Government

- The Role of Influence
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups and Lobbyists
- Conflicts of Interest
- Individuals and Grassroots Groups
- The Role of the Media
- The First Amendment
- The Influence of Elections
- Presidential Campaigns
- Voting Patterns, Trends and Issues

Current Issues and Controversies

- Issues in Foreign Policy
- Issues in Economic Policy
- Participating in a Democracy
- Staying Informed
- Analyzing Public Opinion
- Media Matters
- Your Issue in Court
- Solving Government Problems
- Make Your Case
- Amplify Your Voice!