

# Government

**Course Number:** SS1110

**Grade level:** 9–12

**Credits:** 1.0

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

## Course Description

Providing students with the opportunity to learn about the historical events, philosophers, and topical issues that helped create the democratic foundations of this nation, SS1110 is an engaging course that will introduce high school students to the Founding Fathers and expose them to the ideas that shaped the nation. Over the course of two semesters, students will identify important political leaders and trace the development and organization of federal, state, and local government. In addition, students will explain the political process and analyze the United States' role as a global, political, and economic participant. The course specifically targets the philosophies and foundations of the United States government, the organization of the branches of government, government on a state and local level, and civil liberties and laws. Full of timely and interesting content, this course will inspire students to be more informed citizens and equip them to understand how the United States compares economically and politically on a global scale.

## Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand the foundations of the United States government and the role of the Constitution in shaping American democracy
- Interpret the importance of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and other amendments in shaping government and civil liberties in the United States
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, government agencies, and elected offices at various levels of government in the United States
- Analyze the concept of checks and balances and identify and describe the roles of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches within the United States government
- Compare and contrast different forms of government in countries throughout the world, including multi-party systems, dictatorships, democracies, and socialist and communist governments, and examine the rights of citizens in each
- Assess the role of government in defining different economic systems
- Investigate changes to civil liberties throughout American history and the role of the Judicial Branch in defining these changes

## Student Expectations

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

- 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, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop 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.

<b>Assignments</b>	10%
<b>Essays</b>	0%
<b>Lesson Quizzes</b>	20%
<b>Unit Tests</b>	50%
<b>Cumulative Exams</b>	20%
<b>Additional</b>	0%

## Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

- Unit 1:** Foundations of American Government
- Unit 2:** Participating in Government
- Unit 3:** The Legislative Branch
- Unit 4:** The Executive Branch
- Unit 5:** The Judicial Branch
- Unit 6:** Civil Liberties and the Law
- Unit 7:** State and Local Government
- Unit 8:** Political and Economic Systems