



Course Description

U.S. Government is often a course saved for high school seniors. Take note, this course can provide a helpful roadmap as you navigate the United States society after graduation. Better informed citizens make better citizens, and we are excited to dive into the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to make our constitutional democracy stronger!

Knowing the “why” and “how” behind anything will always give us better understanding. Our relationship to U.S. Government is no different. Whether or not you realize it, you interact with the government all day long, every day of the year. Even the time of day is established by the government (hello daylight savings)! From the roads we drive to the types of food we eat to where the toilet drains, to classes we take (Good to have you here!), Government is involved in some way in most aspects of our lives. With this in mind, we should know more about it.

But knowledge is not everything. A democracy is only as strong as the people within it. Therefore, we must also think about how we can be good citizens, equipped with the tools to sustain it. As the former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill said, “Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” In short: democracy is messy; it is fragile. It demands our attention if we want it to survive. This course provides you with foundational tools to ensure that it does.

This is a 1 semester course consisting of 8 units. Upon successful completion students will receive 0.5 credit towards high school graduation.

Course Overview

Units:

1. Principles of Government
2. The Constitution and Federalism
3. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
4. The Judicial Branch
5. The Executive Branch
6. The Legislative Branch
7. Public Opinion + Political Parties

8. Current Affairs, Civic Dispositions, and Civic Responsibilities

Methods of Evaluation

Students will demonstrate mastery through the following formative and summative assessments:

- 40% Assignments
- 10% Participation (Discussion Posts, Live Classes)
- 10% Quizzes
- 25% Final Assessment
- 15% Unit Tests

Additional Course Information

Detailed information regarding OC Online policies on proctored final exams, grading policy, late/missing assignment policy, weekly live sessions, course expectations, and additional school policies can be found on the website.