

United States Government



Pre-Requisites: 11th or 12th grade status and English I & II recommended

Credits: 0.5 (per segment)

Estimated Completion Time: 1 segment / 16–18 weeks

Earliest Start Date: March 2014

Description

Responsible citizenship, including civil and political participation is essential to maintain a representative government that truly represents the people of the United States. In this course, students learn about the structure of government and how it shares power at the local, state and federal levels. This course also explores founding principles that inspired the Constitution and Bill of Rights, preserving the freedoms that students experience daily.

Students will examine the processes of each branch of government, the election process, and how citizens can impact public policy. The media, interest groups and influential citizens provide examples of how the government can be effected by informed and active participants. Students will examine the U.S. Court system, and become a part of the process by participating in the judicial decision making process. They will also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world, through domestic policy, foreign policy and human rights policy.

Completion of this course will allow you to act as an informed citizen who is ready to participate in the American democracy!

Major Topics and Concepts

Segment One

- Constitutional Principles of Government
- Rule of Law
- Establishing Citizenship, Naturalization
- Political and Civic Participation
- Effective Citizenship
- Service Learning
- Declaration of Independence
- Principles of American Democracy
- Checks and Balances
- Articles of Confederation
- The U.S. Constitution
- Federalists, Anti-Federalists and the Federalist Papers
- Bill of Rights and the Amendment Process
- Individual Rights
- Analyzing Historical Documents
- Federalism
- State and Local Governments
- Constitutional Powers
- Structure and Functions of the Federal Government
- Structure, Function and Processes of the Legislative Branch
- Public Policy
- Structure, Function and Processes of the Executive Branch
- Federal Bureaucracy and Independent Regulatory Agencies
- Role of Political Parties and Interest Groups
- The Media and Bias in Political Communication
- Influencing Government
- Elections and Voting Trends
- Structure, Function and Processes of the Judicial Branch
- Judicial Review
- The U.S. State and Federal Court System
- Judicial Decision Making Process
- Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- Expansion of Civil Rights
- Comparing Governments of the United States and the World

- Democratization
 - Domestic and Foreign Policy
 - Human Rights Policies at Home and Abroad
 - International Organizations
 - Analyzing Data
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Required Materials

Course Objectives

Grading Policy

Communication Policy

Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, FLVS guides students to reflect on their learning and evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, writing assignments, projects, essays, labs, oral assessments, and discussions. Instructors evaluate progress and provide interventions through the variety of assessments built into a course, as well as through contact with the student in other venues