

American Government: National Level

SSTH038057

Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours | NCAA Approved

Course Description

Students learn about the functions, powers and structures of the three branches of the national government of the United States. They consider the constitutional systems of separation of powers and checks and balances. In addition, students examine the role that the national government plays in the solution of specific foreign and domestic problems.

Course Objectives

When you have completed the materials in this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand why the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
2. Describe the operations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
3. Explain the powers of Congress.
4. Summarize the process by which a bill becomes a law.
5. Note the roles of the president.
6. Analyze the powers of the president.
7. Identify the structures and agencies of the federal bureaucracy.
8. Discuss the ways in which the United States conducts foreign policy.
9. Determine the functions of the federal court system in the United States.
10. Explore ways in which the Constitution protects civil liberties.
11. Evaluate ways in which the government protects civil rights.
12. Express personal views about government policies.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Congress

Lesson 1: House and Senate

Lesson 2: Powers of Congress

Lesson 3: Legislation

Unit 2: The Presidency

Lesson 4: Office of the President

Lesson 5: Presidential Power

Unit 3: Federal Operations

Lesson 6: Federal Bureaucracy

Lesson 7: The Federal Budget

Lesson 8: Foreign Policy

Unit 4: The Federal Judiciary

Lesson 9: The Judiciary

Lesson 10: First Amendment Rights

Unit 5: Liberties and Rights

Lesson 11: Civil Liberties

Lesson 12: Civil Rights

Required Textbook and Materials

(Available for purchase through the UNL Independent Study High School.)

Textbook: *Magruder's American Government* (ISBN: 9780131335776)

Michigan State Curriculum Content Standards

Michigan Standards Indicator	American Government: National Level	Location in ISHS Course	Standards Category
3.1	Purposes of Government All students will identify the purposes of national, state, and local governments in the United States, describe how citizens organize government to accomplish their purposes and assess their effectiveness.	Chapter 11:2	Strand 3 Civic Perspective
3.3	Democracy in Action All students will describe the political and legal processes created to make decisions, seek consensus, and resolve conflicts in a free society.	Chapter 11:2	Strand 3 Civic Perspective
3.3	Democracy in Action All students will describe the political and legal processes created to make decisions, seek consensus, and resolve conflicts in a free society.	Lesson – 9	Strand 3 Civic Perspective
3.4	American Government and Politics All students will explain how American governmental institutions at the local, state, and federal levels provide for the limitation and sharing of power and how the nation's political system provides for the exercise of power.	Lesson – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Strand 3 Civic Perspective

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6.1	Identifying and Analyzing Issues All students will state an issue clearly as a question of public policy, trace the origins of the issue, analyze various perspectives people bring to the issue, and evaluate possible ways to resolve the issue.	Chapter 11:2	Strand 5 Inquiry
6.3	Persuasive Writing All students will compose coherent written essays that express a position on a public issue and justify the position with reasoned arguments.	Chapter 11:2	Strand 6 Public Discourse and Decision Making