



# SYLLABUS

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Students learn the history and current structure of the United States government, and how to be active participants in the U.S. political system. They gain understanding of the underlying philosophies that formed the current system, explore the concept of democracy and individual rights, review landmark court decisions, evaluate and take positions on key issues, and learn to think critically.

## **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

- U.S. History recommended
- Senior standing, or instructor permission

## **COURSE LENGTH**

1 Semester

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

None

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

### **UNIT 1**

- Evaluate the role/purpose of government.
- Define and compare/contrast United States republican government to other types of government, such as direct democracy, communism, theocracy, etc.
- Describe elements of early governments (i.e., Greek, Roman, English, etc.) that are visible in United States government structure.
- Trace the creation and influence of early documents in US History.
- Describe the compromises made by the framers of the US Constitution.

- Explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the US Constitution and other essential documents in American democracy.
- Summarize the principles and purposes of government in the Preamble of the Constitution.

## UNIT 2

- Identify the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government established by the US Constitution.
- Describe the bicameral structure, powers, and organization of the US Congress.
- Analyze Article 1 of the Constitution and relate to it the structure of the legislative branch including eligibility for office, lengths of terms, election to office, the role of the Vice President, the enumerated legislative powers, and the process by which a bill becomes a law.
- Identify and explain the implied powers of Congress including the Elastic Clause (necessary and proper) and its effects on the functioning of government.
- Describe the structure, powers, and authority of the executive branch at the federal, state, and local levels.
- Analyze Article II of the Constitution and relate it to the executive branch including eligibility for office and length of term, election to and removal from office, veto power, enumerated executive powers, and the jobs of the President, Cabinet, etc.
- Describe the breakdown of the Federal Court System.
- Analyze the US Supreme Court case Marbury v. Madison (1803) and the establishment of judicial review.
- Examine landmark US Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments, and determine the impact on federal, state, and/or local governments as well as individual liberties.
- Describe the different types of bureaucratic institutions and identify their functions.
- Evaluate the bureaucracy's influence.
- Explain the role of government and the process in making policy.

## UNIT 3

- Formulate and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and responsibilities as American citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

- Understand the factors that influence political ideology, public opinion, and political socialization in the US.
- Analyze the structure and functions of political parties, interest groups, and mass media and their affect on the political beliefs and behaviors of citizens.
- Evaluate how external factors including the media, lobbyists, PACs, special interest groups influence public opinion, elections, and government policies.
- Evaluate the impact of governmental decisions and actions that have effected the rights of individuals or groups in American society and/or affected maintaining order and/or safety.

#### UNIT 4

- Evaluate how governments interact at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Examine the structures and functions of local and state governments.
- Evaluate how governments interact at a global level.

## ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

### Printable Assignment Checklist (.pdf)

## ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

- **Quizzes** - You will complete a quiz after every lesson. This quiz should serve as a review of the lesson. You can take the quiz as many times as you want.
- **Keywords** - Every unit has a list of keywords, you will complete a keywords activity every unit. These will serve as "flashcards" to help you study for the final exam.
- **Student Choice Activities** - You will complete a project for every unit. Each project has several choices including a "create your own" option. Use these projects to dig deeper into people and events from history that interest you.
- **Final Exam** - You will take a 100 question - multiple choice and matching - final exam at the end of the course. You will also complete a review assignment and a final project at the end of the course.

## GRADING POLICY

High scores will be taken for each assignment and quiz. Students are expected to aim to complete each assignment at Mastery level (80%) or higher.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Scores in each category will be added together and divided by total possible points for that category and then multiplied by the weight of the category.

### CATEGORY WEIGHTS

- Assessments = 50% - lesson and unit assignment and projects
- Keywords = 20%
- Quizzes/Final Exam = 30%

### GRADE SCALE:

| Percentage | Letter Grade | GPA |
|------------|--------------|-----|
| 95 - 100   | A            | 4.0 |
| 90 - 94.9  | A-           | 3.7 |
| 87 - 89.9  | B+           | 3.3 |
| 83 - 86.9  | B            | 3.0 |
| 80 - 82.9  | B-           | 2.7 |

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

### PREREQUISITE SKILLS

Before you begin, you should be able to:

- Complete basic operations with a word processing software.
- Complete basic operations with presentation software.
- Perform online research using various search engines.
- Communicate through email.

## CONTACT TECHNICAL SUPPORT



1. Check the **technical support webpage** to see if your issue is listed.
2. If your technical issue is not addressed on the technical support page then fill out a **support ticket**.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY



Academic integrity is founded upon and encompasses the following five values:

1. honesty,
2. trust,
3. fairness,
4. respect, and
5. responsibility.

Supporting and affirming these values is essential to promoting and maintaining a high level of academic integrity. Each member of the academic community must stand accountable for his or her actions. As a result, a community develops in which students learn the responsibilities of citizenship and how to contribute honorably to their professions.

If knowledge is to be gained and properly evaluated, it must be pursued under conditions free from dishonesty. Deceit and misrepresentations are incompatible with the fundamental activity of this academic institution and shall not be tolerated. Members of the CMASAS community are expected to foster in their own work the spirit of academic honesty and not to tolerate its abuse by others.

First responsibility for academic integrity lies with individual students and faculty members of this community. A violation of academic integrity is an act harmful to all other students, faculty and, ultimately, the school.

Students are expected to practice responsible and honest behavior. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at CMASAS and are listed below:

- Cheating on tests, homework, or grading of assignments
- Fabrication (any intentional falsification or invention of date, citation, or other authority in an academic exercise)
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Plagiarism (stealing and passing off as one's own the words or ideas of another)
- Theft or alteration of materials

For more information on Plagiarism and how to avoid it visit **Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab**.