

Prerequisite courses: none

Grade level: 9-12

Course Description

Students will learn about the important founding documents and how they shaped the government of the United States. Important units of study include Introduction to Government, Foundation of U.S. Government, the U.S. Constitution, Branches of Government, and Civil Liberties. Skills focuses include analyzing primary and secondary sources, interpreting charts and graphs, and interpreting Supreme Court cases.

This course is part of the Exceptional Students Course Suite, designed for high school students working three or more grade levels behind. The Exceptional Students courses are ideal for students whose IEPs allow them to earn credit for below-grade-level coursework.

Course Objectives

Students will meet the following goals in this course.

- Explain the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizenship.
- Explain the contributions of Enlightenment thinkers to political ideas in the colonies.
- Describe the obstacles the Constitution faced during the process of ratification.
- Explain how the Constitution creates a government structure that separates powers and establishes checks and balances.
- Analyze how constitutional amendments have affected minority groups' political participation in the US.
- Explain how the Supreme Court uses judicial review to determine constitutionality.
- Describe how public and private interest groups influence society.

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from students as a traditional classroom course. Students are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- interactive lessons, which include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks.
- assignments, in which they apply and extend learning in each lesson.
- assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams.

Communication

Teachers will communicate with students regularly through discussions, emails, chats, and system announcements. Students will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, to collaborate, ask and answer questions in peer groups, and develop speaking and listening skills.

US Government Essentials

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on work completed online and work submitted electronically to the teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

| Grading Category | Weight |
|------------------|--------|
| Assignments | 20% |
| Lesson quizzes | 30% |
| Unit tests | 30% |
| Cumulative exams | 20% |

Scope and Sequence

When students log on to Imagine Edgenuity, they can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics under study. The units of study are listed below

| Course Units |
|---|
| Unit 1: Introduction to Government |
| Unit 2: Foundation of US Government |
| Unit 3: US Constitution |
| Unit 4: Branches of Government |
| Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Interaction |