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# U.S. Government and Civics (GOVT-041)

## History / Social Sciences U.S. Government and Civics Syllabus

### Course Description

The goal of this course is to help you become a better informed, more effective participant in the American political system. This course will help you acquire the necessary knowledge and understanding of America's political foundations and structures to be an effective citizen. You will read and learn about America's fundamental political, economic, and social values and principles. By the end of the course, you will understand the major philosophical foundations and privileges of American civics. You will also gain an understanding of the governmental structures, processes, and principles within which United States citizens participate and shape their government.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### Course Materials

All the materials you need are included in the course. You do not have to buy any additional textbooks.

### Resubmissions and Retakes

For information about resubmitting assignments and retaking quizzes, please contact your AK Grad instructor.

### Course Outcomes

As students complete the course assignments, they will increase their knowledge, improve a 21st-century skill, and develop an attribute.

### Knowledge: US Government & Civics

In this course, *knowledge* refers to the subject matter and content students will learn while completing the readings, practices, quizzes, and assignments.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.
- Evaluate, take, and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations of democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
- Evaluate, take, and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (that is, the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), if and how they are interdependent, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.
- Explain and analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.
- Summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.
- Evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.
- Analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.
- Evaluate, take, and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.
- Evaluate, take, and defend positions regarding the United States' role in the world, and U.S. foreign policy structures and objectives.

## 21st-Century Skill: Communications—Engaging in Conversation and

### Discussion

As students complete this course's assignments, they will gain skills in *Engaging in Conversation and Discussion*. This skill is part of Communications.

### Attribute: Responsibility

This course focuses on developing the attribute of *Responsibility* in the context of US Government and Civics.

### Grading and Assignments

This course is divided into 16 modules. In each module, you will submit computer graded quizzes and may also have teacher graded assignments. Some of the teacher graded assignments include essays and a research paper. All of these assignments will be reflected in the grade book, so they will count toward your grade. Read the description for each type of assignment to learn more and to keep track of your learning experience.

### ***Assignments and Exams***

<b>Assignment or Exam</b>	<b>Grading</b>	<b>Percent of Total Grade</b>
Assignments	Teacher-Graded	30%
Module Quizzes	Computer-Graded	40%
Discussion Boards	Teacher-Graded	5%
Final Exam	Computer-Graded	25%

### **Discussion Boards**

There are two Discussion Boards in Module 1 and Module 8 to give you the opportunity to communicate your ideas about certain topics, to collaborate, connect with, and learn from others, and provide meaningful and respectful feedback. Remember to follow the discussion board rules. Failure to follow the rules can put you in jeopardy of failing the assignment, and your teacher make take further action to solve the issue. Please remember to be a good digital citizen and use technology to engage in meaningful ways with others.

### **Assignments**

You will have the following teacher-graded assignments. Take the opportunity to apply what you have learned, and demonstrate your understanding of the lessons by analyzing and making comparisons. A rubric is included to help you review the requirements so that you include all the details in your assignment.

- Module 2: Separation of Powers
- Module 3: Independent Regulatory Commissions
- Module 4: Voting Record Assignment
- Module 5: Judicial Branch Research Paper
- Module 6: First Amendment
- Module 9: Budget Assignment
- Module 13: Successfully Navigate Media Assignment
- Module 15: Argumentative Essa

There are also 2 reflection assignments, where you will have the opportunity to reflect about the responsibility attribute included in this course:

- Module 4- Scenarios: Responsibility of Congress
- Module 12- Scenarios: Responsibility to be Civically Engaged

## Module Quizzes

At the end of each module, you will submit a computer-graded quiz that will test your knowledge of the content for that module. These are open-note quizzes. You may take notes in each module on major course concepts that will help you with quizzes and exams. You may download the Note Taking Guide and use it throughout the course.

## Essays

There is a research paper and an argumentative essay for this course. These are part of your teacher graded assignments.

## Final Exam

The final exam consists of around 70 questions and is comprehensive, meaning it will include content from the entire course. In Module 16, you will have the opportunity to take a practice exam in preparation for the final. The final exam is found in Module 16.

## Course Grade

The letter grade will be calculated according to these percentages.

Percent to Letter Grade Calculation	
<b>A</b>	100% - 93%
<b>A-</b>	<93% - 90%
<b>B+</b>	<90% - 87%
<b>B</b>	<87% - 83%
<b>B-</b>	<83% - 80%
<b>C+</b>	<80% - 77%
<b>C</b>	<77% - 73%
<b>C-</b>	<73% - 70%
<b>D+</b>	<70% - 67%
<b>D</b>	<67% - 63%
<b>D-</b>	<63% - 60%
<b>F (fail)</b>	<60% - 0%