Stop-United States Government & Citizenship
Semester 2

Grade Level: 11–12
Credit: 0.5 (one semester)
Delivery: Online, Self-Paced, Competency-Based
Prerequisites: Completion of Semester 1 or equivalent understanding of U.S. government foundations

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Course Description

In United States Government & Citizenship – Semester 2, students go beyond the foundational principles of the U.S. Constitution to explore how government operates in the real world—and how citizens can shape its future. This course emphasizes the dynamic interaction between the branches of government, the role of media and interest groups, and the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

Students will critically examine how policies are made and implemented, the significance of voting and civil participation, and how individuals and groups can influence change. Emphasis is placed on current events, legal rights, the judicial process, and public service. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to analyze civic issues, engage in respectful debate, and take informed action in their communities.

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Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Understand the powers and limitations of the three branches of government in practice
- Analyze how laws and policies are created, debated, and enforced at various levels of government
- Evaluate the role of political parties, media, and special interest groups in shaping public opinion
- Explore the legal system, including civil rights, due process, and the role of the judiciary
- Examine the impact of landmark Supreme Court decisions on American society
- Understand the responsibilities of informed citizenship, including voting and civic participation
- Investigate how individuals and groups advocate for change through political and legal channels
- Reflect on current political issues and explore ways to participate in civic life responsibly

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Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe how laws are developed and enforced at the federal, state, and local levels
- Compare and contrast the structure and function of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches
- Identify ways in which political institutions, media, and public opinion influence decision-making
- Analyze the importance of civic responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and community engagement
- Evaluate the significance of key Supreme Court decisions and constitutional amendments
- Engage in respectful dialogue and debate about controversial issues
- Apply their knowledge to real-world civic actions such as writing letters to representatives, proposing initiatives, or organizing community forums
- Demonstrate understanding of current events in the context of constitutional rights and civic duties

Units & Pacing Guide

• Unit 1: Separation of Powers in Action (1.5 weeks)
Explore how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches interact and balance one another during the lawmaking process and times of national challenge.

• Unit 2: Public Policy and the Political Process (1.5 weeks)
Analyze how public policy is shaped by elected officials, interest groups, political parties, and the media. Examine real legislation and track its progress.

• Unit 3: Civil Rights and Liberties (2 weeks)
Study major Supreme Court cases, civil rights movements, and the evolution of liberties under the Bill of Rights. Consider how legal protections have expanded or been challenged over time.

• Unit 4: The Judicial System & Rule of Law (1 week)
Understand the structure and function of the courts, legal procedures, due process, and how laws are interpreted and enforced. Simulate or observe a mock trial or judicial proceeding.

• Unit 5: Citizenship in Action (1.5 weeks)
Explore civic duties and opportunities, from voting and advocacy to community organizing. Students identify real issues and develop personal civic action plans.

• Unit 6: Capstone Project: Civic Participation Portfolio (1.5 weeks)
Students demonstrate mastery by building a portfolio or presentation that includes analysis of a civic issue, participation in a civic activity, and a reflective essay on their role as a citizen.

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Why Take This Course?

• Gain the knowledge and confidence to become an informed and active citizen
• Understand how government decisions affect your everyday life—and how you can influence them
• Learn to navigate legal rights, civil responsibilities, and public debate
• Prepare for voting, advocacy, leadership, and lifelong civic engagement
• Explore real-world issues and build skills in research, argumentation, and public communication
• Meet state graduation requirements for U.S. Government and Citizenship

The course is a fully online, self-paced, competency-based program, and we're very proud of it!

Students only advance once they've demonstrated true mastery of each skill—no rushing, no guessing. This flexible structure not only supports individual learning styles and schedules but also empowers learners to take ownership of their progress, knowing exactly what they can do next.

Moreover, every module, assignment, and assessment is meticulously aligned with state standards and clear learning objectives, guaranteeing comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and real-world skills students need to succeed. This isn't just online learning—it's purposeful, rigorous, and personalized, ensuring no student advances until they truly understand the material.