Welcome to US Government & Citizenship

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
US Government & Citizenship, Semester 1, is a self-paced course designed to foster informed, responsible participation in public life and guide students through the foundational elements of U.S. government and citizenship. This course explores the major ideas, protections, privileges, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen within the U.S. political system.

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the Constitution, the roles of government branches, civil liberties, and the importance of active citizenship in preserving and improving U.S. democracy. Upon completion, students will be prepared to fulfill the requirements of the United States Citizenship exam for graduation.

Units and Learning Outcomes

Unit 1: Foundations of U.S. Government
- Understand the principles and philosophy behind the U.S. Constitution.
- Examine the structure and functions of the federal government.
- Learn about the historical context and key events that shaped the U.S. government.

Unit 2: The Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Analyze the Constitution's framework, including the Preamble, Articles, and Amendments.
- Explore the significance of the Bill of Rights and its protections for individual freedoms.
- Understand the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases on constitutional interpretation.

Unit 3: The Three Branches of Government
- Learn about the powers and responsibilities of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches.
- Study the system of checks and balances that ensures no branch has too much power.
- Understand the process of lawmaking, the role of the president, and judicial review.

Unit 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- Explore the key civil liberties protected by the Constitution, including freedom of speech, religion, and the press.
- Understand the evolution of civil rights in the U.S., focusing on the struggle for equality and justice.
- Examine contemporary issues related to civil liberties and human rights.

Unit 5: Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, including voting, jury duty, and military service.
- Learn how citizens participate in democracy through voting, advocacy, and public service.
- Explore the importance of being an informed and active citizen in a democratic society.

Unit 6: Political Parties, Elections, and Public Policy
- Study the role of political parties and the election process in U.S. government.
- Understand the significance of elections, including presidential, congressional, and local races.
- Examine how public policies are formed and the influence of interest groups and public opinion.

Unit 7: Economic Systems and the U.S. Economy
- Learn the basics of U.S. economic systems, including capitalism and mixed economies.
- Study the role of government in regulating and influencing the economy.
- Explore the federal budget, taxation, and economic policy.

Unit 8: The Role of U.S. Government in Global Affairs

- Examine the United States' role in international relations, foreign policy, and diplomacy.
- Study the impact of U.S. policies on global issues such as trade, security, and human rights.
- Understand the principles of global citizenship and the U.S.'s role in promoting democracy and peace.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Understand the foundational principles and structures of the U.S. government.
- Analyze the Constitution and its impact on civil rights and liberties.
- Describe the roles and functions of the three branches of government.
- Discuss the rights, responsibilities, and participation of U.S. citizens in democracy.
- Prepare for the U.S. Citizenship exam, fulfilling graduation requirements.

Conclusion:

US Government & Citizenship, Semester 1, is a self-paced, independent study course that equips students with the knowledge necessary for active participation in American democracy. By understanding the political system, foundational documents, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens, students will develop a deeper appreciation for their role in shaping the nation's future.

Upon completion of this course, students will have a thorough understanding of U.S. government structures and be prepared to fulfill the United States Citizenship exam requirements, ensuring they are ready for responsible, informed participation in public life.