

American Government 2: National Level

SSTH 038 059

Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours / NCAA Approved

Course Description

Students learn about the functions, powers and structures of the three branches of the national government of the United States. They consider the constitutional systems of separation of powers and checks and balances. In addition, students examine the role that the national government plays in the solution of specific foreign and domestic problems.

Course Objectives

When you have completed the materials in this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the structures, powers, and functions of the legislative branch of the federal government.
2. Discuss the structures, powers, and functions of the executive branch of the federal government.
3. Identify the different types of agencies in the federal bureaucracy.
4. Analyze the process of creating a federal budget and explain the importance of the budget.
5. Provide an overview of American foreign policy from the constitutional era to the present.
6. Explore the impact of supranational organizations like the United Nations on American foreign policy.
7. Describe the structures, powers, and functions of the federal, state, and municipal judicial systems in the United States.
8. Summarize the constitutional basis for civil liberties and civil rights in the United States.
9. Examine the American civil rights movement from a legal / political perspective, noting how activism and legislation contributed to the movement.
10. Compare different views about political issues.
11. Form well-informed opinions about political matters.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Congress

Lesson 1: The House and the Senate

Lesson 2: Powers of Congress

Lesson 3: Legislation

Unit 2: The Presidency

Lesson 4: The Presidency

Lesson 5: Presidential Power

Unit 3: Federal Operations

Lesson 6: Federal Bureaucracy

Lesson 7: The Federal Budget

Lesson 8: Foreign Policy

Unit 4: The Federal Judiciary

Lesson 9: The Judicial System

Lesson 10: The Supreme Court

Unit 5: Civil Liberties

Lesson 11: The Bill of Rights

Lesson 12: Due Process of Law

Unit 6: Civil Rights

Lesson 13: Equal Protection under the Law

Lesson 14: Rights and Citizenship

Required Textbook and Materials

(available through Follett virtual bookstore at <http://highschool.nebraska.bkstr.com>)

Textbook: *Magruder's American Government. 2013 ed.* (ISBN: 9780133240825)