



## American National Government

### Syllabus

#### ● Course Description

The study of American National Government begins with a survey of the people, ideas, and events that created the U.S. national government. Through examination of the U.S. Constitution, acts of Congress, Presidential Addresses, and Supreme Court opinions, students will understand the original roles of the three branches of the national government, trace their development through American history, and evaluate how they function presently. Influence and individual participation in the national government is included in the study of: public opinion; the media; interest groups; political parties and campaigns; voting and elections. Civil liberties and civil rights are thoroughly examined by understanding their Constitutional origins, the impact of Supreme Court opinions, as well as historical events and documents.

#### ● Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss intelligibly the people and the documents of the Early American Republic.
- Demonstrate knowledge of several political and economic theories.
- Analyze historical documents and political information in a logical, systematic manner.
- Participate in current national, state, and local politics as an informed citizen.
- Contribute positively to American political discourse and influence others.

#### ● Recommended Materials

- Printed copies of assigned readings (not required!)
- Notebook and folder
- Suggested Apps: Constitution of the U.S.A. by Multieducator Inc.  
Oyez by Justin Inc.

## ● Study Tips

This course is designed to be 16 weeks in length. While it is not suggested to combine weeks, one of the benefits of eLearning is that courses can easily be lengthened as needed. Please keep in mind that each subscription to Great American Studies is twelve months.

Each week there is a reading assignment, video lectures, and often a quiz. There are five quizzes and four exams.

- Please complete the assigned reading prior to watching the lecture.
- Take good notes during the lectures. Pause, rewind, or watch a lecture again if necessary!
- Study vocabulary and review your notes prior to quizzes and complete each study guide before the test. Use of these materials is not allowed on quizzes and tests.
- Check off your progress on the Course Outline and record your grade after each quiz/test.

\*Parents, this is a great time to start a dialogue with your child about your own beliefs, values, and political views. Do you follow the news and politics? Maybe for these few weeks, you could read the news and talk about it over a coffee with your student in the morning. Dinner is another great time to hear from them about what they learned in the lecture or what they read in the news, and ask their opinions about current events. Don't look for "right" or "wrong" answers, just have a conversation!

## ● Grading Scale

Below is a suggested grading scale. However, if you choose to give other projects, papers, or assignments please adjust as necessary.

You might consider using the online quizzes and test as a homework grades and have your student complete the available written exams for test grades (written exams are located in the "Printables" section of the course). \*Written exams are parent graded.

Quizzes and tests may be taken numerous times. I suggest allowing students to retake assessments and give one half credit for missed questions they answered correctly the second time.

I suggest the following scales:

<u>Ten Point Scale</u>	<u>Weighted Grades</u>	
90-100 A	5 Quizzes (10 points each) for a total of	50 points
80-89 B	4 Tests (50 points each) for a total of	<u>200 points</u>
70-79 C		250 Total points
60-69 D		
<59 F		

Add the total points earned and divide by 250. Multiply by 100 to figure the percentile. For example, "Sam" earned a total of 200 points for quizzes and test.  $200/250=0.80$  or 80% B.

Most high school transcripts record American National Government as a half credit in Social Studies.

## ● Course Outline

	Week	Video Lecture Topic	Lecture #	Exams	Quiz/Test Grade
	Week 1	Western Civilization	1		
		Government and Politics	2		
	Week 2	American Exceptionalism	3		
		Founding Fathers and Declaration of Independence	4	Quiz 1	
	Week 3	Statesmen and the Constitutional Convention	5		
		U.S. Constitution	6		
	Week 4	Federalist Papers and Bill of Rights	7		
		Federalism	8	Test 1	
	Week 5	Article I, Part 1	9		
		Article I, Part 2	9		
	Week 6	Legislative Branch, Part 1	10		
		Legislative Branch, Part 2	10	Quiz 2	
	Week 7	Article II, Part 1	11		
		Article II, Part 2	11		
	Week 8	Executive Branch	12	Quiz 3	
		Article III	13		
	Week 9	Judicial Branch, Part 1	14		
		Judicial Branch, Part 2	14	Test 2	
	Week 10	Public Opinion	15		
		Media	16		
	Week 11	Interest Groups	17		
		Political Parties	18	Quiz 4	
	Week 12	U.S. Political Spectrum	19		
		Campaigns	20		
	Week 13	Voting	21		
		Elections	22	Test 3	
	Week 14	Civil Liberties, Part 1	23		
		Civil Liberties, Part 2	23		
	Week 15	Civil Liberties, Part 3	23	Quiz 5	
	Week 16	Civil Rights, Part 1	24		
		Civil Rights, Part 2	24	Test 4	