



Utah Core Academic Standards—United States Government and Citizenship (Course Number: 6210)

What Citizens Need to Know About Government
addresses Utah Core Academic Standards for the United States Government and
Citizenship course grades 9-12.



United States Government and Citizenship
Course Number: 6210
0.5 Credit

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to foster informed, responsible participation in public life. Knowing how to be a good citizen is essential to the preservation and improvement of United States democracy. Upon completion of this course the student will understand the major ideas, protections, privileges, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen in the United States political system. This course is recommended for seniors due to their proximity to voting and draft age.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

—Thomas Jefferson (1820)

STANDARD 6210-01 Students will understand the significance and impact of the Constitution on everyday life.

Indicators

- Identify and summarize the philosophies that contributed to the Constitution; e.g., Machiavelli, Locke, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton.
- Identify and investigate the events that led to the creation of the Constitution.
- Analyze how the idea of compromise affected the Constitution.
- Examine the purposes and role of government.
- Investigate the major ideas of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other writings; e.g., Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Iroquois Confederation.
- Compare the Articles of Confederation to the United States Constitution.
- Explain how the separation of powers is maintained through checks and balances.
- Describe how the federal system of government creates a division of power.

- *Chapter 1 identifies and summarizes the philosophies that contributed to the Constitution and American democracy. The Writings of Niccolo Machiavelli, John Locke, Adam Smith and other philosophers are highlighted and Web links are included to the complete texts of their most influential works. The purpose and role of government is also explored and the concept of compromise is expressed. Links are included to the complete texts of influential historic documents including, the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the Iroquois Confederation.*
- *Chapter 2 identifies the philosophies that influenced the creation of the U.S. federal government. Web links are included to the writings of Thomas Jefferson and all of the Federalist Papers, written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay in defense of the philosophies set forth in the U.S. Constitution. The events that led to the creation of the Constitution is also explored in this chapter and a Web link is included to the complete papers of the Constitutional Convention. The division of powers among the federal and state governments and among the different branches of government are also identified and the checks and balance system is defined.*
- *Chapter 3 describes the formation of the U.S. Constitution and a link is included to the complete text of the document, which can be used for further research into the organization of the U.S. government and for comparison purposes to the Articles of Confederation linked in Chapter 1.*

- Determine how judicial review makes the Constitution a living document.
- Examine how the rule of law affects everyday life.

- *Chapter 7 examines the U.S. justice system and explains how judicial review makes the Constitution a living document. This chapter also explains how the rule of law affects everyday life. Important Supreme Court decisions are highlighted and links are included to the complete texts of these decisions. Links are also included to the Web pages of the U.S. Supreme Court, appellate courts and other judicial courts.*

- Investigate the necessity for civic virtue.

- *Chapter 17 explores the necessity for civic virtue in the context of governmental ethics. Ethics violations of congresspersons and presidents are highlighted and links to related articles are included for further information. The government's responses to ethics violations are discussed and concepts, such as censure and impeachment, are addressed.*

- Explain how legislative, executive, judicial powers are distributed and shared among the three branches of national government.
- Describe how the United States Congress makes laws.
- Examine the ways in which the executive branch carries out laws.

- Investigate how laws are interpreted by courts through an adversarial process; i.e., plaintiff, defendant.

- *Chapter 2 explains how the legislative, executive and judicial powers are distributed and shared among the three branches of the national government. The concepts of checks and balances and separation of powers are explored and the responsibilities of each branch of government are identified.*
- *Chapter 4 describes the powers of the executive branch of government and explores the roles of the president and vice-president. Powers and constraints of the presidency are addressed and concepts like veto and impeachment are defined. Links are included to the White House's Web page and biographies of every U.S. president.*
- *Chapter 5 explains how the executive branch, through the president's cabinet, carries out laws. The selection process for the secretaries of the cabinet departments is described and Web links are included to every cabinet department, including the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security. Related articles identify current issues that the different cabinet departments are addressing.*
- *Chapter 6 describes how the U.S. Congress makes laws. The roles of the Senate and House of Representatives are described and Web links are included to both houses of the Congress. Web links are also included to all permanent House and Senate committees. Links to related articles highlight issues being addressed by the Congress.*
- *Chapter 7 describes the role of the judiciary in the federal system. The way laws are interpreted by courts through an adversarial process is described and the processes for civil and criminal court proceedings are explained and illustrated with graphics. Web links are included to the Supreme Court and other judicial courts, such as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and the Court of International Trade.*

STANDARD 6210-02 Students will understand the protections and privileges of individuals and groups in the United States.

Indicators

- Determine the rights and liberties outlined in the Bill of Rights.
- Examine how the Bill of Rights promotes civil rights and protects diversity.
- Assess the significance of the First and Fourteenth Amendments.
- Examine how the Bill of Rights promotes a just legal system.
- Summarize the differing interpretations of the strict versus loose constructionists.
- Identify landmark cases and their impact on civil rights and individual liberties; e.g., *Dred Scott, Plessy, Brown, Miranda, Gideon, Bakke*.

- *Chapter 3 summarizes the differing interpretations of the strict and loose constructionists and explores issues associated with civil liberties and the Bill of Rights. Civil liberties during wartime are addressed and the treatment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and Arab-Americans during the War on Terrorism are cited as examples.*
- *Chapter 9 identifies the rights and liberties outlined in the Bill of Rights, and explains how the Bill of Rights promotes civil rights and protects diversity. The significance of the First and Fourteenth Amendments are explained and links are included to the complete texts of these and other amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The way the Bill of Rights promotes a just legal system is explained and links are included to the complete texts of landmark Supreme Court cases that have impacted civil rights and individual liberties, including Dred Scott, Plessy, Brown, Miranda, Gideon and Bakke.*

STANDARD 6210-03 Students will understand the distribution of power in the national, state, and local government in the United States federal system.

Indicators

- Identify and explain the concept of federalism.
- Examine the debate between federal supremacy and states' rights.

- *Chapter 2 explains the concept of federalism and examines the debate between federal supremacy and states' rights. The debate between Federalists and Anti-Federalists is explored and links are included to the complete texts of all the Federalist Papers and the response from Anti-Federalists.*

- Assess the unique relationship between the sovereign American Indian nations and the United States government.

- *Chapter 1 identifies different forms of tribal governments that Native Americans practice. Web links are included to the governments of many Native American tribes, including the Blackfeet Nation and the Chickasaw Nation.*
- *Chapter 9 assesses the unique relationship between the sovereign American Indian nations and the U.S. government. The controversy over land claims is addressed and concepts like reservations are explained. The government's response is identified and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act is cited as an example. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further research.*

- Describe the powers given to local governments.
- Investigate the structure and function of local government.
- Assess how federal monies influence local policy and decision making.
- Explore current issues affecting local governments; e.g., spending, state v. local control, land use.
- Examine how public education is a function of state and local government.

- *Chapter 10 describes the powers of state governments and explains how federal monies influence state policy and decision-making. The state functions over public education are explored. Links to related articles and Web sites explore current issues affecting state governments, including spending, federal v. state control, state v. local control and land use. Web links are also included to all state governments.*
- *Chapter 11 describes the powers given to local governments and the structures and functions of local governments are explored. The way federal monies influence local policy and decision-making is discussed and the local government's role in education is explained. Links to related articles and Web sites explore current issues affecting local governments. Links are included to all local government Web sites around the country.*

STANDARD 6210-04 Students will understand the responsibilities of citizens in the United States.

Indicators

- Assess the need to obey laws.

- *Chapter 7 explains the need to obey laws and the consequences of breaking laws are explored. The rights of defendants are explained. Links to related articles and Web sites include examples of the consequences of legal actions.*
- *Chapter 14 identifies the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the need to obey laws is cited as an example. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further research.*
- *Chapter 17 explains how no one is above the law, including congresspersons and presidents. The consequences of actions are addressed and terms, such as censure and impeachment, are defined. Specific examples of ethics violations are cited, including the impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the expulsion of James Traficant the Congressman from Ohio.*

- Examine the election and voting process.

- *Chapter 15 describes the election and voting process. Key concepts and terms, such as referendum and electoral college, are explained. The impact of the disputed 2000 presidential election on the future of voting is explored and links to related articles and Web sites are included for more information. Related articles and Web sites also identify current issues associated with voting, and include the results from the most recent national elections.*

- Examine the United States tax system.

- Chapter 12 examines the U.S. tax system. Different types of taxes are identified and the taxing authorities of the federal, state and local governments are explored. Links to related articles and Web sites, including the Internal Revenue Service, are provided for current information on U.S. tax policies at the federal, state and local levels.

- Recognize the need for selective service in maintaining a military.

- Chapter 14 explains how selective service is a requirement of citizenship. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further research.
- Chapter 27 describes the role of government to provide for national defense. The selective service and draft procedures are explained and the U.S. military involvements around the world are discussed. Links to related articles and Web sites includes information on current U.S. military actions.

- Investigate the major political parties and their ideas.
- Evaluate the need for civic dialogue in maintaining a democratic society; e.g., public meetings, mass meetings.
- Participate in activities that promote the public good; e.g., the voting process, jury duty, community service.
- Analyze and evaluate conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation.
- Develop an understanding of the role of civility in dealing with individual and group differences.

- Chapter 9 explores minority issues and stresses the role of civility in dealing with individual and group differences. The struggle for equality for minorities and women is described and Web links include biographies of important civil rights leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks.
- Chapter 14 stresses the importance of citizens to participate in civic dialogue and other activities that promote the public good. Mandatory and voluntary requirements of citizens are identified, including voting, jury duty and community service. Web links are included to community service organizations, such as AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and USA Freedom Corps.
- Chapter 16 explains the role of political parties and identifies the major parties in the U.S. and their ideas. The importance of mass meetings and participation in a democratic society is stressed and the decision-making process of political parties is identified. Actions and conditions that contribute to conflict and cooperation between the political parties are explored. Web links are included to major political parties in the United States, including the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the Green Party and the Reform Party. Related articles include specific examples of conflict and cooperation among the political parties in the U.S.

STANDARD 6210-05 Students will understand basic economic principles and how they influence everyday life.

Indicators

- Explain how the scarcity and abundance of productive resources contribute to economic systems.
- Develop an understanding of capitalism, communism, socialism, and mixed economic systems.
- Examine the problems of newly developing economies in today's world.
- Analyze the role that prices, incentives, and profits play in determining what is produced and distributed in a competitive market system.
- Determine how scarcity and choice influence governmental economic decision making.
- Examine how the private and public sectors contribute to an economic system.
- Analyze the role of specialization and exchange in the economic process.

- *Chapter 12 explains how governmental decision-making is influenced by scarcity of funds in the context of the government's power to tax and spend. Links to related articles and Web sites are included for further research.*
 - *Chapter 24 examines the interaction of government and business in the United States. The interaction between the private and public sectors of the economy is explored and competition in the market system is addressed. Key concepts and terms, such as monopoly and laissez-faire, are defined. Web links are included to regulatory agencies, such as the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission. The U.S. economic role in the global economy is explored and a link is included to the North American Free Trade agreement Web site.*
 - *Chapter 28 describes the role of the U.S. in the global economic system. Foreign aid to newly developing economies is addressed and the U.S. interaction with international economic organizations is highlighted. Web links are included to such organizations as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Group of Eight.*
- ***SIRS Interactive Citizenship book, What Citizens Need to Know About Economics, addresses many more economic issues, including scarcity and choice, identification of different economic systems, issues of economic development, the role of prices, incentives and profits, the public and private sectors of the economy, specialization and exchange. Please refer to the correlations to the economics book for more specific information.*

STANDARD 6210-06 Students will understand the relationship between the United States and the international system.

Indicators

- Explain the purpose of government and analyze how government powers are acquired, used, and justified.
- Compare different political systems with that of the United States; e.g., dictatorship, democracy, theocracy, monarchy, totalitarianism.

- Chapter 1 explains the purpose and powers of government and describes how government powers are acquired, used and justified. Different political systems are identified and defined, including dictatorship, democracy, monarchy and totalitarianism. Links to related articles and Web sites provide specific examples of each.

- Analyze and evaluate conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.
- Explain the powers that the Constitution gives to the president and Congress in foreign affairs, and how these powers have been used.
- Describe the process by which United States foreign policy is made; e.g., federal agencies, domestic interest groups, the public, the media.
- Analyze the various ways that United States foreign policy is carried out; e.g., diplomatic, economic, military, humanitarian.
- Explain how United States domestic politics affect United States foreign policy.
- Describe the impact of the United States' concepts of democracy and individual rights on the world.
- Explain how developments in other nations affect United States society and life.
- Describe the role of the United States in international organizations.

- Chapter 13 describes how domestic interest groups, the public and the media influence foreign policy. Links to related articles and Web sites provide specific examples.

- Chapter 27 discusses U.S. foreign policy in the context of military action. The power of the president and Congress with regard to warfare is discussed and Web links are included to all branches of the U.S. military. Related articles include specific current examples of U.S. military actions.

- Chapter 28 explores issues associated with U.S. foreign policy. The conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation with and among nations are explored. The powers that the Constitution gives to the president and Congress in foreign affairs are described. A link is included to the complete texts of the U.S. Constitution and War Powers Act for more information. The uses of these powers throughout U.S. history are explored and related articles include current examples of the use of foreign policy powers of the president and Congress. The process by which U.S. foreign policy is made and carried out (e.g., diplomatic, economic, military and humanitarian) is described and links are included to the many federal agencies involved in the process. The influence of domestic policy on foreign policy is examined and links to related articles include current examples. The impact of U.S. concepts of democracy and individual rights on the world is explored and the impact of developments in other nations on U.S. society and life is addressed. The U.S. role in international organizations is highlighted and Web links are included to many organizations that the U.S. is a member of, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations and many other organizations.