United States Government is a one-semester course aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards for U.S. Government. The course examines the history, principles, and function of the political system established by the U.S. Constitution. Beginning with government's role in society and the philosophies underlying American democracy, the course provides students with knowledge needed to become informed participants in the U.S. political system. Through critical reading, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop skills in research, source analysis, argumentation, and taking informed action. Written assignments address critical questions about U.S. politics and the role individuals play in political organizations, while discussions require students to respond to political opinions and defend their positions. Formative and summative assessments provide regular opportunities for students and teachers to monitor and evaluate progress.

There are no required materials for this course.

Length: One Semester

Unit 1: Introduction to U.S. Government

- Essential Skills
- Ideas about Government
- Origins of U.S. Government
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to U.S. Government

Unit 2: The U.S. Constitution

- Establishing the Constitution
- Examining the Constitution
- Federalism in the United States
- Wrap-Up: The U.S. Constitution

Unit 3: Institutions of the Federal Government

- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- Wrap-Up: Institutions of the Federal Government

Unit 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Foundational Freedoms
- Interpreting Civil Liberties
- Fighting for Civil Rights
- Wrap-Up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 5: Citizen Connections

- Institutions with Influence
- Elections and Campaigns

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- State and Local Government
- Wrap-Up: Citizen Connections

Unit 6: Public Policy

- Understanding Public Policy
- Domestic Policy
- Foreign Policy
- Wrap-Up: Public Policy

Unit 7: Civic and Political Participation

- The Role of Citizens
- Voting
- Further Political Participation
- Wrap-Up: Civic and Political Participation

Unit 8: Semester Review and Exam

- Semester Review and Exam

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