Virginia and United States Government is a two-semester course aligned with the 2023 History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Kindergarten - Grade 12 for Grade 12: Virginia and United States 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: Two Semesters

### Unit 1: Introduction to American Government

- Essential Skills
- Ideas about Government
- Origins of American Government
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to American 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: Semester 1 Review and Exam

- Semester 1 Review and Exam


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## Unit 6: Citizen Connections

- Institutions with Influence
- Elections and Campaigns
- State and Local Government
- Wrap-Up: Citizen Connections

## Unit 7: The Legal System

- Laws and Justice in the United States
- Criminal Justice
- Civil Justice
- Wrap-Up: The Legal System

## Unit 8: Public Policy

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

## Unit 9: Civic and Political Participation

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

## Unit 10: Semester 2 Review and Exam

- Semester 2 Review and Exam


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