



## Basic American Government A: Full Course Summary

Note: If this course is intended to be a Credit Recovery course, the following assumptions apply:

- This course is a core course at the “Basic” level in Connections Academy’s system, which titles courses as Basic, Standard, Honors, or Advanced Placement (AP).
- The student has previously taken this or a similar course but did not achieve a passing grade based on his/her school’s grading scale.
- This course will be modified by the teacher in order to skip over areas in which the student shows understanding of the material, leaving more time to focus on gaps in the student’s knowledge or understanding.
- Because Credit Recovery courses will be shortened and/or modified based on individual student needs, these courses are generally **not** appropriate for students who have **not** previously taken this or a similar course, nor for students wishing to accelerate their high school studies.

If a student wishes to take this course for the first time he/she will be expected to cover all material in the course without the above-noted modifications. Students must discuss this option with the NaCA Admission and Support Representative prior to enrolling in the course for the first time.

### Course Summary

This is the first of two courses that comprise American Government. In this course, the student will explore the foundation of American government and its fundamental principles and organization. Glencoe’s *United States Government: Democracy in Action* provides the basis for instruction. The student will examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—are studied in depth. This course promotes understanding and participation in government by presenting information in a context that is relevant to the student. Activities in this course are designed to develop the student’s abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information, as well as to communicate his or her ideas to others.

### Unit 1: Foundations of American Government

In this unit, you will explore the beginnings of government in the United States. You will learn about the political and economic features of American government. You will discover how the American colonies won independence from Great Britain and what models they looked to in creating a new nation. You will study the *Constitution*, the three branches of government, and the principle of federalism.

### Lessons

1. Principles of Government
2. The Formation of Governments
3. Types of Government
4. Economic Theories
5. The Colonial Period

6. Uniting for Independence
7. The Articles of Confederation
8. The Constitutional Convention
9. Structure and Principles
10. Three Branches of Government
11. Amending the Constitution
12. The Amendments
13. National and State Powers
14. Relations Among the States
15. Developing Federalism
16. Federalism and Politics
17. Foundations of American Government Unit Review
18. Foundations of American Government Unit Test

## **Unit 2: The Legislative Branch**

In this unit, you will learn about the powers and functions of the legislative branch of the United States government. You will explore the House of Representatives, the Senate, and additional committees and agencies. You will study how Congress works with the president, as well as how new laws are made.

### **Lessons**

1. Congressional Membership
2. The House of Representatives
3. The Senate
4. Congressional Committees
5. Staff and Support Agencies
6. Constitutional Powers
7. Investigations and Oversight
8. Congress and the President
9. How a Bill Becomes a Law
10. Taxing and Spending Bills
11. Influencing Congress
12. Helping Constituents
13. The Legislative Branch Unit Review
14. The Legislative Branch Unit Test

## **Unit 3: The Executive Branch**

In this unit, you will explore the powers and functions of the executive branch of the United States government. You will learn about the responsibilities of the president, vice president, and the cabinet. You will also study the seven major roles of the president and styles of leadership that lead to presidential success. Finally, you will learn about the bureaucratic and civil service systems of the executive branch.

## **Lessons**

1. President and Vice President
2. Electing the President
3. The Cabinet
4. The Executive Office
5. Presidential Powers
6. Roles of the President
7. Styles of Leadership
8. Bureaucratic Organization
9. The Civil Service System
10. The Bureaucracy at Work
11. The Executive Branch Unit Review
12. The Executive Branch Unit Test

### **Unit 4: The Judicial Branch**

In this unit, you will explore the powers and functions of the judicial branch of the United States government. You will learn about the judicial systems of federal and state courts. You will study the Supreme Court, and learn about how it selects, hears, and decides cases. Finally, you will investigate how the Supreme Court shapes public policy as well as the factors that influence the Court's decisions.

## **Lessons**

1. Powers of the Federal Courts
2. Lower Federal Courts
3. The Supreme Court
4. The Supreme Court at Work
5. Shaping Public Policy
6. Influencing Court Decisions
7. The Judicial Branch Unit Review
8. The Judicial Branch Unit Test

### **Unit 5: American Government A Final**

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