

Civics

Credits: 0.5

Course Overview and Goals

Civics is a course that offers alignment to a variety of state and national standards sets for Civics and Government, as well as alignment to the USCIS Naturalization test. The course includes a variety of unit and lesson activities that examine the history, geography, culture, and economy of the state that encourage research and reflection. In these activities, you will examine founding documents and landmark Supreme Court cases in American political history, analyze changes in federal and executive power over time, explore the political election process and data related to recent voting trends, research and propose a public policy plan, as well as compare and contrast the functions of the national government with state and local governments. In addition, the course includes an entire unit with content to prepare for the USCIS Naturalization test. You can also access a worksheet with all 100 items from the USCIS test. Throughout the course, places where you can find or research answers to these questions are highlighted. Students can access this information by selecting the following callout image onscreen:



By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- ❖ Describe and compare the purposes and types of government.
- ❖ Identify and explain historical influences on the development of the U.S. government.
- ❖ Explain the origins, development, and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
- ❖ Examine primary and secondary sources.
- ❖ Examine how seminal documents reflect American democratic values.
- ❖ Describe how the legislative branch of the U.S. government works.
- ❖ Describe how the executive branch of the U.S. government works.
- ❖ Describe how the judicial branch of the U.S. government works.
- ❖ Describe how a bill becomes law in the U.S.
- ❖ Analyze the growth of executive power.

- ❖ Explain how the Constitution protects individual rights and civil liberties through the Bill of Rights.
- ❖ Analyze the evolution of voting rights and voter protections in the United States.
- ❖ Analyze the work of various minority groups in American history to obtain equal protection and equal justice under the law.
- ❖ Explain the concept of majority rule and minority rights and examine how the US Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to balance these ideas throughout history.
- ❖ Describe types of political parties and analyze their role in the U.S. political process.
- ❖ Explain the U.S. election process.
- ❖ Examine the factors that influence public opinion, attitudes, and behaviors in the United States.
- ❖ Evaluate data related to voting trends in modern presidential elections.
- ❖ Analyze the structure of the federal bureaucracy and how domestic policy is made.
- ❖ Explain how U.S. foreign policy is made and the US role in world affairs over time.
- ❖ Define key economic concepts.
- ❖ Explain how the U.S. economy works and how the U.S. government is involved in the economy.
- ❖ Examine the US role in international economics.
- ❖ Describe types of political parties and analyze their role in the U.S. political process.
- ❖ Describe the powers of state and tribal governments.
- ❖ Describe the powers of local governments.
- ❖ Compare the structure and functions of the federal government and government in your state.
- ❖ Explain how to become a US citizen, and describe the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.
- ❖ Describe the requirements for successful completion of the USCIS the Naturalization Test.
- ❖ Write routinely by producing informative texts.
- ❖ Engage in meaningful and respectful discussions.
- ❖ Use metacognitive strategies to deepen understanding of texts.

Scope and Sequence

This document outlines the design of the Civics course, as well as the coverage of the Edmentum standards for Civics within the course.

UNIT 1: ESTABLISHING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (DAYS 1 – 13)

In this unit, you will learn about the early philosophical influences and foundations of the US constitutional government. The unit discusses major Enlightenment thinkers and their influence on our nation’s founders, as well as explanation of fundamental concepts that shaped our nation’s government, such as the social contract, natural rights, and the rule of law. You will also examine the historical events that led to the creation of the Declaration of Independence, early state and local governments, the Articles of Confederation, along with a close examination of how and why our nation’s constitution was written. The unit also provides an in-depth comparison of different types of governments that exist around the world. Finally, you will research and closely read seminal documents that reflect American democratic values, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and excerpts from the Federalist Papers.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Syllabus and Orientation	Review the Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.
Origins of Government <i>ED.CIV.1.1 , ED.CIV.1.2</i>	Describe and compare the purposes and types of government.
Influences on the Development of the U.S. Government <i>ED.CIV.1.3 , ED.CIV.1.4, ED.CIV.1.5</i>	Identify and explain historical influences on the development of the U.S. government.
The U.S. Constitution <i>ED.CIV.1.6 , ED.CIV.1.7, ED.CIV.1.8</i>	Explain the origins, development, and ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.1.3 , ED.CIV.1.4, ED.CIV.1.6</i>	Examine how seminal documents reflect American democratic values.

UNIT 2: THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (DAYS 14 – 28)

Unit 2 focuses on the structures and functions of the US federal government branches. It begins with an examination of the legislative branch, including the Constitutional basis for its creation, as well as its powers. The next lesson covers the Constitutional power given to the executive branch, and the requirements and responsibilities of the president. The third lesson in this unit discusses the judicial branch of our government, including a discussion of the Supreme Court and the federal court system. Finally, you will learn the process by which a bill can be enacted into law in the country. You will also analyze the evolution of executive power in the country by closely examining the actions of different presidential administrations in American history.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
The Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government <i>ED.CIV.2.1, ED.CIV.2.4</i>	Describe how the legislative branch of the U.S. government works.
The Executive Branch of the U.S. Government <i>ED.CIV.2.2</i>	Describe how the executive branch of the U.S. government works.
The Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government <i>ED.CIV.2.3</i>	Describe how the judicial branch of the U.S. government works.
How a Bill Becomes Law in the Federal Government <i>ED.CIV.2.5</i>	Describe how a bill becomes law in the U.S.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.2.1, ED.CIV.2.2</i>	Analyze the growth of executive power.

UNIT 3: CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS (DAYS 29 – 40)

This unit examines the civil liberties and civil rights that are guaranteed to American citizens under the U.S. Constitution. The unit also provides an in-depth look at the Bill of Rights and the constitutional protection of individual rights through the lens of several landmark Supreme Court cases. You will learn how the nation has expanded and limited rights throughout history, including the evolution of voting rights for all citizens. You will also learn about different minority groups that have fought to obtain equal justice and equal protection under the law. Throughout this unit, you will closely examine a variety of landmark Supreme Court cases relating to contemporary and historic issues regarding individual rights and civil liberties.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights <i>ED.CIV.3.1, ED.CIV.3.2, ED.CIV.3.5</i>	Explain how the Constitution protects individual rights and civil liberties through the Bill of Rights.
Expanding Equality: The Right to Vote <i>ED.CIV.3.3, ED.CIV.3.4, ED.CIV.3.5, ED.CIV.3.6, ED.CIV.3.7</i>	Analyze the evolution of voting rights and voter protections in the United States.
Civic Actions, Civil Rights, and Equal Protections <i>ED.CIV.3.3, ED.CIV.3.5, ED.CIV.3.6, ED.CIV.3.7</i>	Analyze the work of various minority groups in American history to obtain equal protection and equal justice under the law.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.3.1, ED.CIV.3.5, ED.CIV.3.6, ED.CIV.3.7</i>	Explain the concept of majority rule and minority rights and examine how the US Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to balance these ideas throughout history.

UNIT 4: THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM (DAYS 41 -52)

This unit focuses on the history and evolution of American politics since the inception of the nation. It includes an explanation of the major political parties in the country, including a discussion of how these parties formed and how their platforms changed over time. The unit also provides a thorough explanation of political elections. You will learn about different types of elections, the nomination process, the voting process, and the role of the Electoral College. Finally, the unit explains the role of the media and interest groups on informing and influencing public opinion in the country. The unit ends with an activity in which you will analyze data from recent presidential elections to identify national voting trends, as well as propose solutions to increase voter turnout in national elections.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Political Parties <i>ED.CIV.4.1, ED.CIV.4.2, ED.CIV.4.3</i>	Describe types of political parties and analyze their role in the U.S. political process.
Elections <i>ED.CIV.4.4, ED.CIV.4.5, ED.CIV.4.6</i>	Explain the U.S. election process.
Public Opinion, the Media, and Interest Groups <i>ED.CIV.4.7, ED.CIV.4.8, ED.CIV.4.9</i>	Examine the factors that influence public opinion, attitudes, and behaviors in the United States.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.4.5, ED.CIV.4.7</i>	Evaluate data related to voting trends in modern presidential elections.

UNIT 5: PUBLIC POLICY (DAYS 53–69)

This unit introduces concepts related to domestic policy, including government regulations, fiscal policy, and matters of social welfare. You will learn about different federal agencies, and their roles and responsibilities in carrying out public policies. In addition, you will learn about the influence that lobbyists and interest groups have on shaping public policy in the U.S. The unit also examines the US approach to foreign policy, along with a discussion of international diplomacy and international organizations with which the US has been historically involved. This unit examines the nation’s place in an ever-changing, 21st-century globalized and economy. It includes an introduction to basic economic concepts before examining the specifics of the US economy, including a discussion of business, banking, and the government’s role in maintaining and regulating economic health. The unit activity culminates with a project to research and propose a public policy plan based around a contemporary issue of their choosing.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
The Bureaucracy and Domestic Policy <i>ED.CIV.5.1, ED.CIV.5.2, ED.CIV.5.4, ED.CIV.5.5</i>	Analyze the structure of the federal bureaucracy and how domestic policy is made.
Foreign Policy <i>ED.CIV.5.6, ED.CIV.5.7, ED.CIV.5.8</i>	Explain how U.S. foreign policy is made and the US role in world affairs over time.
Basic Economic Principles	Define key economic concepts.
The U.S. Economy at Work <i>ED.CIV.5.3, ED.CIV.5.4</i>	Explain how the U.S. economy works and how the U.S. government is involved in the economy.
The United States and the Global Economy <i>ED.CIV.5.9</i>	Examine the US role in international economics.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.5.1</i>	Examine how interest groups influence public policy in the US and describe strategies to propose a public policy plan.

UNIT 6: FEDERALISM (DAYS 70–81)

This unit focuses on the structure of the American system of federalism, including an examination of the relationship between the central federal government and the states. It begins with an overview of state and local governments, including the distribution of powers between each level. The unit also explores the structures and functions of tribal governments, including the relationship of these entities with the federal government. Finally, in the unit activity, you will compare the structure and functions of the federal government with those of their individual state governments.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Federalism in the United States <i>ED.CIV.6.1</i>	Describe types of political parties and analyze their role in the U.S. political process.
State and Tribal Governments <i>ED.CIV.6.2</i>	Describe the powers of state and tribal governments.
Local Governments <i>ED.CIV.6.3</i>	Describe the powers of local governments.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.6.1, ED.CIV.6.4</i>	Compare the structure and functions of the federal government and government in your state.

UNIT 7: CITIZENSHIP (DAYS 82–90)

In the final unit of this course, you will learn about civic duties and principles of American citizenship in the context of preparation for the USCIS Naturalization test. You will also examine the process and requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen. Finally, you will answer questions that are included in the USCIS Naturalization test bank, a task that you have been preparing for throughout the course via sample items in callouts.

Lesson/Edmentum Standards	Lesson Objective
Rights and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizens <i>ED.CIV.7.1, ED.CIV.7.2, ED.CIV.7.3</i>	Explain how to become a US citizen, and describe the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens.
The USCIS Citizenship Test <i>ED.CIV.7.4</i>	Describe the requirements for successful completion of the USCIS the Naturalization test.
Unit Activity <i>ED.CIV.7.4</i>	Complete a practice test for the Citizenship Exam.