

## Course Outline

### Unit 1 – Political Heritage

- Political Philosophers and the Origins of Government
- Foundations of American Government
- The Declaration of Independence
- The Articles of Confederation

### Unit 2 – The U.S. Constitution

- The Convention and Its Compromises
- Federalists and Anti-Federalists
- Principles of the Constitution
- Checks and Balances

### Unit 3 – Political Parties

- The Two-Party System
- The Role of Political Parties
- The Political Spectrum
- Political Socialization

### Unit 4 – The Election Process

- The Election Process
- The Role of Parties, Interest Groups, Individuals, and the Media
- The Expansion of Suffrage

### Unit 5 – The Legislative Branch

- The Structure and Organization of Congress
- The Powers of the Legislative Branch
- How a Bill Becomes a Law

### Unit 6 – The Legislative Process

- Influences on the Legislative Process

### Unit 7 – The Executive Branch

- The Structure and Organization of the Executive Branch
- The Qualifications and Roles of the President and Vice President
- The Cabinet

### Unit 8 – The Executive Branch and Domestic Policy

- Influences on Domestic Policy

### Unit 9 – The Executive Branch and Foreign Policy

- The Development and Goals of U.S. Foreign Policy

### Unit 10 – The Judicial Branch

- The Structure and Organization of the Judicial Branch
- The Appointment and Roles of Federal Judges

### Unit 11 – Civil Rights and Liberties

- The Impact of Supreme Court Decisions
- Due Process and Equal Protection
- The Bill of Rights

### Unit 12 – State Government

- The Structure and Powers of the State Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches

### Unit 13 – Local Government

- The Structure and Powers of the County and City Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches

### Unit 14 – Comparative Government

- Modern Governments Around the World