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**Course Syllabus**

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| **Course Name:** | American Government V8 |
| **Description:** | Responsible citizenship means more than just paying taxes. It means understanding the principles and practices of government. It also means defining your beliefs as to what good government is. In this course, you will take on the role of a Washington D.C. intern and spend time working throughout the nation’s capital with all three branches of the government- and beyond. As you progress through the internship you will gain a greater understanding on the history of the country's beginnings, and knowledge of how government functions at the local, state and national levels.  The purpose of this course is to help you become an informed and active citizen. In part, the Declaration of Independence asserts that, “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.” Make yours an informed consent. |
| **Prerequisites:** | None |
| **Estimated Completion Time:** | 1 segment / 16-18 weeks |
| **Major Topics and Concepts:** | Segment 1:   * Origins of Modern Government and Types of Government * Enlightenment Influences * Declaration of Independence * Articles of Confederation * The Constitution * Branches of Government, Checks and Balances and Federalism * Judicial Branch, the Court System, and the Supreme Court * The Amendments and the Bill of Rights * Jury Duty * Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and the Patriot Act * The Legislative Branch, Powers of Congress and Congressional Elections * Role of Political Parties and Interest Groups * How a Bill Becomes a Law * The Executive Branch, Presidential Elections and the Cabinet * The Media and Politics * Foreign, Domestic and Economic Policy * Modern Day Presidents and Presidential Impeachment * State Governments and State Constitutions * Citizenship and the Rights and Responsibilities of United States Citizens * Voting Rights and Responsibilities * Function and Role of Local Governments |
| **Course Assessment and Participation Requirements:** | Besides engaging students in challenging curriculum, the course guides students to reflect on their learning and to evaluate their progress through a variety of assessments. Assessments can be in the form of self-checks, practice lessons, multiple choice questions, writing assignments, projects, research papers, essays, labs, oral assessments, and discussions. Instructors evaluate progress and provide interventions through the variety of assessments built into a course, as well as through contact with the student in other venues. |