

# Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

## BIG HORN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

|              |                       |                 |                     |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Program Name | WYCA                  | Content Area    | Social Studies      |
| Course ID    | CASS78563             | Grade Level     | 9, 10, 11, 12       |
| Course Name  | American Government A | # of Credits    | 0.5                 |
| SCED Code    | 04151G0.5012          | Curriculum Type | Connections Academy |

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of two courses that comprise American Government. Magruder’s American Government provides the basis for instruction. In this course, the student will explore the foundations of American government and its fundamental principles and organization. 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 ideas to others.

### WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

| STANDARD# | BENCHMARK  |
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| SS12.1.1  | Analyze unique freedoms, rights, and responsibilities of living in a democratic society and explain their interrelationships.  |
| SS12.1.2  | Explain and/or demonstrate how to participate in the political process and form personal opinions.   |
| SS12.1.3  | Analyze the historical development of the United States Constitution and treaties and how it has shaped the United States and Wyoming Government (tribal, local, state, federal).  |
| SS12.1.4  | Demonstrate an understanding of the United States civil and criminal legal systems and distinguish differences between those systems.  |
| SS12.1.5  | Demonstrate an understanding of the structures of both the United States and Wyoming Constitutions.  |
| SS12.1.6  | Compare and contrast various world political systems (e.g., ideologies, structure, and institutions) with that of the United States.   |
| SS12.2.1  | Analyze and evaluate the ways various groups (e.g., social, political, and cultural) meet human needs and concerns (e.g., individual needs and common good) and contribute to identity (e.g., group, national, and global), situations, and events.                            |
| SS12.2.2  | Analyze human experience and cultural expression (e.g., language, literature, arts, traditions, beliefs, spirituality, values, and behavior) and illustrate integrated views of a specific culture.  |
| SS12.2.3  | Evaluate how the unique characteristics of cultural groups have contributed and continue to influence Wyoming’s history and contemporary life (e.g., tribes, explorers, early settlers, and immigrants).   |
| SS12.2.4  | Analyze and critique the conflicts resulting from cultural assimilation and cultural preservation in Wyoming, the United States, and the World (e.g., racial, ethnic, social, and institutional).  |
| SS12.3.1  | Analyze the impact of supply, demand, scarcity, prices, incentives, competition, and profits on what is produced, distributed, and consumed.   |
| SS12.3.2  | Analyze and evaluate how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in various economic systems (e.g., capitalism, communism, and socialism).   |
| SS12.3.3  | Analyze and evaluate the impact of current and emerging technologies at the micro and macroeconomic levels (e.g., jobs, education, trade, and infrastructure) and their impact on global economic interdependence.   |
| SS12.3.4  | Explain how financial and government institutions make economic decisions (e.g., banking, investment, credit, regulation, and debt).   |
| SS12.3.5  | Evaluate how values and beliefs influence microeconomic and macroeconomic decisions.   |
| SS12.4.1  | Describe patterns of change (cause and effect) and evaluate how past events impacted future events and the modern world.   |
| SS12.4.2  | Analyze the development and impact of tools and technology and how it shaped history and influenced the modern world.  |
| SS12.4.3  | Given a significant current event, critique the actions of the people or groups involved; hypothesize how this event would have played out in another country.   |
| SS12.4.4  | Describe the historical interactions between and among individuals, groups, and/or institutions (e.g., family, neighborhood, political, economic, religious, social, cultural, and workplace) and their impact on significant historical events.                               |
| SS12.4.5  | Using primary and secondary sources, apply historical research methods to interpret and evaluate important historical events from multiple perspectives.   |
| SS12.5.1  | Use geographic tools and reference materials to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize historical and geographic data to demonstrate an understanding of global patterns and interconnectedness.   |
| SS12.5.2  | Describe regionalization and analyze how physical characteristics distinguish a place, influence human trends, political and economic development, and solve immediate and long-range problems.  |
| SS12.5.3  | Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how conflict, demographics, movement, trade, transportation, communication, and technology affect humans’ sense of place.   |
| SS12.5.4  | Analyze how environmental changes and modifications positively and negatively affect communities and the world both economically and socially.   |
| SS12.6.1  | Analyze, evaluate, and/or synthesize multiple sources of information in diverse formats and media in order to address a question or solve a problem.   |
| SS12.6.2  | Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text supports the author’s claims.  |
| SS12.6.3  | Use digital tools to research, design, and present social studies concepts (e.g., understand how individual responsibility applies in usage of digital media). <a href="https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students">https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students</a> |
| SS12.6.4  | Evaluate and integrate accurate, sufficient, and relevant information from primary and secondary sources to support writing  |

### SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

| UNIT OUTLINE | STANDARD# | OUTCOMES |
|--------------|-----------|----------|
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| <p><b>Unit 1: Course Overview</b><br/>In this unit, you will receive a basic overview of the course. You will learn about the course structure built around the Magruder’s American Government textbook, and preview the different assessments included throughout the course. You will also learn how to take efficient and effective lesson notes in order to be successful in the course, as well as how to format research papers and cite sources. Finally, you will explore some of the course’s interactive features.</p> |   | <p>In this course overview, you will learn about the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Unit Structure and Icons</li> <li>•21st Century Skills in Social Studies</li> <li>•Lesson Materials, Language, and Vocabulary</li> <li>•Practice</li> <li>•Unit Companion</li> <li>•Lesson Note-Taking, Research, and Citations</li> <li>•Assessments and Rubrics</li> <li>•Technology and Accessibility</li> <li>•Reflection and Quick Check</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Unit 2: Foundations of American Government</b><br/>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 primary documents upon which American government was founded.</p>  | <p>SS12.1.1, SS12.1.3, SS12.1.5, SS12.1.6, SS12.6.4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read, analyze, and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government</li> <li>• Define the basic responsibilities held by every government</li> <li>• Outline the distribution of power within an organized state</li> <li>• Compare and contrast different theories and governments that influenced the structure of American government</li> <li>• Examine and explain how checks and balances impact American government</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Unit 3: The Legislative Branch</b><br/>In this unit, you will learn about the powers and functions of the legislative branch of the U.S. government. You will explore the House of Representatives, the Senate, and additional committees and agencies. You will study how Congress works with the president, how new laws are made, and the road to becoming a member of the legislative house.</p>   | <p>SS12.1.2</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the powers provided to Congress by the Constitution</li> <li>• Evaluate how Congress represents the will and interests of the people</li> <li>• Identify the qualifications for election to the House of Representatives and Senate</li> <li>• Analyze the committee system in Congress and its role in government</li> <li>• Describe the legislative development process</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Unit 4: The Executive Branch</b><br/>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 electoral process and political parties. Finally, you will learn about the bureaucratic and civil service systems of the executive branch.</p>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classify the responsibilities of the executive branch and its parts</li> <li>• Identify, explain, and evaluate the constitutional powers of the president</li> <li>• Explain the bureaucratic structure of federal government</li> <li>• Describe various roles of the president in international affairs</li> <li>• Analyze historic elections and candidacies</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Unit 5: The Judicial Branch</b><br/>In this unit, you will explore the powers and functions of the judicial branch of the U.S. government. You will learn about the judicial systems of federal and state courts. You will study the Supreme Court and learn 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.</p>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the roles and responsibilities of the judicial branch as outlined by the Constitution</li> <li>• Discuss and critique judicial review and how it impacts public policy by examining historical court cases</li> <li>• Evaluate the process for appointing federal judges and Supreme Court justices</li> <li>• Describe the jurisdiction of federal courts and the Supreme Court and how a case is moved to these courts</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Unit 6: Semester Review and Exam</b><br/>In this unit, you will have the opportunity to prepare for and take the semester exam. Since this is a comprehensive exam, it may be helpful to organize your notes in the order of the course outline before you begin to review. Using the test-taking strategies that you have previously learned can help you be successful with both objective and essay questions.</p>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances</li> <li>• Analyze and interpret historical documents and events that led to the establishment of a central American government</li> <li>• Analyze the roles, responsibilities, and structures of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government</li> </ul>   |