

Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

Sheridan County School District # 1

Program Name	Sheridan County School District #1 Virtual School	Content Area	SS
Course ID	AC04151	Grade Level	10 - 12
Course Name	US Government	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04151	Curriculum Type	Acellus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Acellus U.S. Government course presents the history, theory, structure, and mechanics of the United States Government, as well as the responsibilities and impact of its citizens. Course topics include: Foundations of Government, Historical Foundations, Formation of the Constitution, Overview of the Constitution, Checks and Balances, Federalism, Bill of Rights and Amendments, Supreme Court Cases, Political Participation and Political Parties, Process of Elections and Influence of Mass Media, Public Policy and Interest Groups. Acellus U.S. Government is A-G Approved through the University of California.

WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	BENCHMARK (Standard/Indicator) Use the Standards and Benchmarks as Spreadsheets
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.
SS12.1.4	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.
SS12.4.3	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.
SS12.6.1	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). https://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-students

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES OBJECTIVES/STUDENT CENTERED GOALS
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Unit 1 – Foundations of Government	SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about unlimited and limited government. They also learn about Hobbes and Locke, and Rousseau and Montesquieu.
Unit 2 – Historical Foundations	SS12.1.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.3, SS12.4.5	In this unit students learn about the English documents that shaped the U.S. Constitution, the French and Indian War, British acts towards the Colonists in America, and the reaction of the Colonists. They also learn about the “Shot Heard Round the World” on April 19, 1775, and an overview and breakdown of the Declaration of Independence.
Unit 3 – Formation of the Constitution	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.2, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about the structure, weakness, and downfall of the Articles of Confederation, Shay’s Rebellion, and compromises at the Constitutional Convention. They also learn about Federalists and anti-Federalists, and the Federalist Papers.
Unit 4 – Overview of the Constitution	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.1.3, SS12.1.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about why it is important to study the constitution, and the major principals of the Constitution. They also learn about the five articles of the Constitution, including the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches, relations among the States, and the amendment process.
Unit 5 – Checks and Balances	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3, SS12.4.5	In this unit students learn about the branches of government, how a Bill becomes a Law, qualifications of Congress and of the Executive and Judicial Branches, and the impeachment process. They also learn about the Electoral College, leadership positions in Congress, and Presidential Succession.
Unit 6 – Federalism	SS12.1.2, SS12.1.3, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3, SS12.4.5	In this unit students study an overview of Federalism. They also learn about the Supremacy Clause in Article 6, and the structure of State and Local Government.
Unit 7 – Bill of Rights and Amendments	SS12.1.1, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3, SS12.4.5	In this unit students study an overview of the Bill of Rights. They also learn about the Bill of Rights one through ten, followed by the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment, Amendments 11 through 20, and Amendments 21 through 27.
Unit 8 – Supreme Court Cases	SS12.4.3, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about several Supreme Court Cases. Specifically, they learn about the cases of New Jersey versus TLO, Plessy versus Ferguson, Brown versus the Board of Education, Gideon versus Wainwright, and Miranda versus Arizona.
Unit 9 – Political Participation and Political Parties	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.2.1, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about political bias, responsibilities and participation, and expansion of voter’s rights. They also learn about the purpose and functions of parties, and the significance of third parties.

Unit 10 – Process of Elections and Influence of Mass Media	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.2.1, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about the order of electing a President. They also learn about the impact of media on elections and on public policy, and media during the Internet Age.
Unit 11 – Public Policy and Interest Groups	SS12.1.1, SS12.1.2, SS12.2.1, SS12.4.4, SS12.6.1, SS12.6.3	In this unit students learn about the role of public opinion. They also learn about domestic and foreign policy, funding public policy with taxes, and the purpose and influence of interest groups and lobbyists.