

# Wyoming Department of Education Required Virtual Education Course Syllabus

## 2201000 - Washakie County School District No. 1

Program Name	Washakie #1 Online	Content Area	SS
Course ID	W04151G0.5011	Grade Level	
Course Name	WOL-US Government & Politics	# of Credits	0.5
SCED Code	04151G0.5011	Curriculum Type	K-12 Fuel Education

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the history, organization, and functions of the United States government. Beginning with the Declaration of Independence and continuing through to the present day, students explore the relationship between individual Americans and our governing bodies. Students take a close look at the political culture of our country and gain insight into the challenges faced by citizens, elected government officials, political activists, and others. Students also learn about the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court, and discuss their own views on current political issues.

### WYOMING CONTENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

STANDARD#	<a href="#">BENCHMARK (Standard/Indicator) Use the Standards and Benchmarks as Spreadsheets</a>
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.

### SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

UNIT OUTLINE	STANDARD#	OUTCOMES OBJECTIVES/STUDENT CENTERED GOALS
Unit 1: Principles of Government  Students identify the purposes of government and evaluate theories about its origins. They compare and contrast power and authority, describe types of government, and learn the basic ideas of American democracy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Purposes and Origins of Government</li> <li>• Power and Government</li> <li>• Types of Government</li> </ul>		
Unit 2: Constitutional Underpinnings		

<p>Students learn about the Enlightenment, the ideas of John Locke and Thomas Jefferson, the American Revolution, and the Constitutional Convention. They compare and contrast the views of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, discuss the five major principles of the Constitution, and learn about the Bill of Rights and other important amendments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Origins of American Government</li> <li>• Creating and Ratifying the Constitution</li> <li>• The Constitution</li> <li>• Federalism</li> </ul>		
<p>Unit 3: Institutions of Government</p> <p>Students learn about the basic structure of the U.S. government, and the purpose and functions of Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, and the federal court system. They study the significance of Marbury v. Madison and learn the steps the Supreme Court follows in selecting, hearing, and deciding cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Government</li> <li>• Congress</li> <li>• The Presidency</li> <li>• The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy</li> <li>• The Judicial Branch</li> </ul>		
<p>Unit 4: Political Beliefs and Behaviors</p> <p>Students learn about the expansion of suffrage in the United States, opportunities for citizen participation in the political process, and demographic factors that influence political participation and political attitudes. They are introduced to the two axis model of the political spectrum and study the development of liberal and conservative positions in the U.S. They learn about the history of opinion polling and the methods used to measure public opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Participation</li> <li>• Political Opinions</li> <li>• America's Political Landscape</li> </ul>		
<p>Unit 5: Linkage Institutions</p> <p>Students learn about the two-party system, the history of political parties in America, and the role of the media in American elections. They study the process by which presidents are elected, how interest groups and lobbyists work, how the media can impact political agenda, and the evolution of the press in the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Parties</li> <li>• Elections and Campaigns</li> <li>• Interest Groups</li> <li>• The Media</li> </ul>		

<p>Unit 6: The Art of Policymaking</p> <p>Students learn about policymaking and economic, social, and foreign policies of the United States. They learn about the typical issues addressed and the powers of state and local government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding Policymaking</li> <li>• Policy Realms</li> <li>• Policymaking at the State and Local Levels</li> </ul>		
<p>Unit 7: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</p> <p>Students learn about individual rights and liberties found in the Bill of Rights. They look at how the establishment clause and the free exercise clause have been interpreted to protect freedom of religion; trace the ever-evolving interpretation of freedom of speech; and learn about freedom of the press, assembly, and petition and the right to privacy. They study major steps in the fight for equality for African Americans, women, and other minority groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Rights</li> <li>• First Amendment Liberties</li> <li>• Privacy Rights and Rights of Due Process</li> <li>• Rights for Minorities and Women</li> </ul>		
<p>Unit 8: U.S. Government and Politics Review and Exam</p> <p>Students review what they have learned and take the final exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review</li> <li>• Exam</li> </ul>		

