



This course supports the assessment for AZC1. The course covers 1 competency and represents 1 competency units.

Introduction

Overview

Welcome to the U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship Course.

At the end of this course, you should be able to

- explain the roles of major institutions in American government
- explain the contents and importance of historical documents
- understand major principles in the constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

View the following video introduction for this course:

Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 1 competency:

- **Competency 102.6.6: U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship**
The graduate explains the roles of major institutions in American Government, explains the contents and importance of historical documents, and understands major principles in the Constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

Activities at a Glance Outline

This course includes an outline to help you briefly visualize the elements of this course. This outline will also provide general pacing guidelines for your work through the course and can be printed and used as a quick checklist for your progress.

- "[U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship Activities at a Glance](#)"

Course Mentor Assistance

As you prepare to successfully demonstrate competency in this subject, remember that course mentors stand ready to help you reach your educational goals. As subject matter experts, mentors enjoy and take pride in helping students become reflective learners, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Course mentors are excited to hear from you and eager to work with you.

Successful students report that working with a course mentor is the key to their success. Course mentors are able to share tips on approaches, tools, and skills that can help you apply the content you're studying. They also provide guidance in assessment preparation strategies and troubleshoot areas of deficiency. Even if things don't work out on your first try, course mentors



act as a support system to guide you through the revision process. You should expect to work with course mentors for the duration of your coursework, so you are welcome to contact them as soon as you begin. Course mentors are fully committed to your success!

Preparing for Success

The information in this section is provided to detail the resources available for you to use as you complete this course.

Learning Resources

The learning resources listed in this section are required to complete the activities in this course. For many resources, WGCU has provided automatic access through the course. However, you may need to manually enroll in or independently acquire other resources. Read the full instructions provided to ensure that you have access to all of your resources in a timely manner.

Automatically Enrolled Resources

You can access the learning resources listed in this section by clicking on the links provided throughout the course. You may be prompted to log in to the WGCU student portal to access the resources.

Soomo Learning Environment

The following learning environment will be utilized as the primary learning resource for completion of this course:

- [Americans Governing](#)

Additional Preparations

Whiteboards

Whiteboards may be used to assist you as you complete the assessment for this course. Paper, or other note taking resources, may not be used during the assessment. For math assessments only, scratch paper can be used only when taking the assessment at an on-site testing center. Please view the following video for more information on how to use a whiteboard:

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Introduction Presentation

Before you begin working on this course, take time to review the introduction presentation (lesson 1 in the [learning resource](#)) for an overview of the course, learning resource, and assessment. Your learning resource provides you with a variety of learning activities to help you



master the information required for the assessments.

Course Overview

U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship is divided into 4 sections: Introduction and Foundations, The Constitution, The Federal Government and Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities. As you complete the activities for each section, consider how your growing understanding and knowledge of the Constitution, laws and government of the United States will influence your participation in our representative government.

Introduction and Foundations

The United States' system of government is, in many ways, unique. However, the men who drafted the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution incorporated many of the ideas and philosophies of earlier government systems (such as the Roman Republic) and political philosophers (such as John Locke). Thus, the United States government is both new, in the sense that it has only existed for a little over 200 years, and also very old, since the ideas and philosophies encapsulated in its government system date back hundreds of years.

In this section, you will study several early documents, including the Magna Carta and John Locke's Second Treatise which helped form the United States' system of government.

As you complete the readings and activities, you should develop a solid understanding of the historical foundations of the United States' system of government. When you have finished, you will be able make connections between earlier government systems and ideologies and the United States' founding documents.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 102.6.6: U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship**

The graduate explains the roles of major institutions in American Government, explains the contents and importance of historical documents, and understands major principles in the Constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

Introduction and Foundations

Access the following section in Soomo-Americans Governing by clicking the link below and completing the corresponding activities:

- ["Introduction and Foundations"](#)

Once you have completed all of the work for this section, mark this activity as complete in this course using the checkbox above.

The Constitution

Without question, the Constitution is the single most important document in the United States' government. In it, the United States' system of federalism is established, roles and responsibilities of the various branches of government are established, and the rights of



individuals are enumerated.

Understanding the Constitution is essential to developing an understanding of the United States' government. In this section, you will read and study the Constitution from the preamble to the amendments. You will also study the creation of the Constitution, which will help you to understand many of the roles, principles, and rights outlined in the document.

When you have finished the readings and activities for this section, you will understand:

- the origins and development of the Constitution
- it's goals and organization
- the established powers of the government.

You will also understand the negotiations and compromises that occurred in order to complete and ratify the Constitution.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 102.6.6: U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship**

The graduate explains the roles of major institutions in American Government, explains the contents and importance of historical documents, and understands major principles in the Constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

The Constitution

Access the following section in Soomo-Americans Governing by clicking the link below and completing the corresponding activities:

- "[The Constitution](#)"

Once you have completed all of the work for this section, mark this activity as complete in this course using the checkbox above.

The Federal Government

The Constitution establishes a system of federalism in which powers are divided between the national (federal) government and the various state governments. The Constitution outlines which powers are given to the federal government and which are given to the states.

The structure and organization of the federal government is also outlined, in detail, in the Constitution. Specific roles are assigned to each of the three branches, and checks and balances of each branch's powers are established.

In this section, you will study the government organization and structure as it is outlined in the Constitution. After completing the readings and activities for this section, you will be able to:

- describe the roles and responsibilities of each branch of the federal government



- Understand the ways each branch "checks" and "balances" the powers of the other two branches.

You will also understand which duties and powers are the responsibility of the federal government and which are the responsibility of the states.

This topic addresses the following competency:

- **Competency 102.6.6: U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship**

The graduate explains the roles of major institutions in American Government, explains the contents and importance of historical documents, and understands major principles in the Constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

The Federal Government

Access the following section in Soomo-Americans Governing by clicking the link below and completing the corresponding activities:

- "[The Federal Government](#)"

Once you have completed all of the work for this section, mark this activity as complete in this course using the checkbox above.

Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities

In a participatory government, like the United States government, individuals play a key role. Citizens in the United States are guaranteed many rights, and those rights are protected both by the Constitution and by law. When there are questions about how and to whom rights apply, the U.S. Supreme Court is responsible for the interpretation and application of those rights. In some cases, the Supreme Court interprets rights in a limited way (such as limitations on freedom of speech), and in other cases, rights are interpreted broadly and with few limitations.

In addition to guaranteeing rights, the foundation of a participatory republican government rests on citizens fulfilling certain responsibilities. While these responsibilities are not often spelled out as clearly and directly as rights, they are no less important to the proper functioning of government and society.

In this section, you will study the rights of citizens, several key Supreme Court cases involving the interpretation and application of rights, as well as the explicit and implied responsibilities of citizens. After completing the readings and activities for this section, you will understand:

- the rights guaranteed by the Constitution
- how those rights are interpreted and applied by the Supreme Court
- the responsibilities inherent to a participatory government

This topic addresses the following competency:



- **Competency 102.6.6: U.S. Constitution, Law, and Citizenship**

The graduate explains the roles of major institutions in American Government, explains the contents and importance of historical documents, and understands major principles in the Constitution of the United States and the ways that American citizens participate in government.

Citizenship

Access the following section in Soomo-Americans Governing by clicking the link below and completing the corresponding activities:

- "[Citizenship: Rights and Responsibilities](#)"

Once you have completed all of the work for this section, mark this activity as complete in this course using the checkbox above.

Final Steps

Congratulations on completing the activities in this course! This course has prepared you to complete the assessment associated with this course. If you have not already been directed to complete the assessment, schedule and complete your assessment now.

The WGU Library

The WGU Library

The [WGU Library](#) is available online to WGU students 24 hours a day.

For more information about using the WGU Library, view the following videos on [The WGU Channel](#):

Introducing the WGU library

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Searching the WGU library

Note: To download this video, right-click the following link and choose "Save as...": [download video](#).

Center for Writing Excellence: The WGU Writing Center

If you need help with any part of the writing or revision process, contact the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Whatever your needs—writing anxiety, grammar, general college writing concerns, or even ESL language-related writing issues—the CWE is available to help you. The



CWE offers personalized individual sessions and weekly group webinars. For an appointment, please e-mail writingcenter@wgu.edu.

Feedback

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:

- [Course Feedback](#)

Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu. Further information on WGU's Accessibility policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the following link:

- [Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities](#)