



This course supports the assessments for U.S. Constitution and Government. The course covers 7 competencies and represents 3 competency units.

## Introduction

### Getting Started

Welcome to Survey of United States Constitution and Government! This course is an introduction to the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. government. To assist you in mastering the material of this course you will be working in the Cengage MindTap learning environment. This is a comprehensive learning resource that contains your e-book, flashcards, quizzes, and activities. The course includes a preassessment, which you can take at any time to assess your understanding of course concepts and to determine if you are ready for the objective assessment. The preassessment will provide you with a Coaching Report that will help you target the topics where you have more to learn.

It is highly recommended that you start by watching the "How to get Started" video, found under the Announcement tab on the right navigation bar, which includes information about the learning resource, study guide, pacing guide, cohort, and live events sections. In addition to these resources, Course Mentors are also available to answer questions and discuss concepts of United States Constitution and government.

Watch the following video for an introduction to this course:

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

### Competencies

This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following 7 competencies:

- **Competency 1003.1.1: Scope and Ideologies of Government**  
The graduate analyzes the dilemmas and principles of government.
- **Competency 1003.1.2: Central Themes and Founding Principles of the U.S. Constitution**  
The graduate analyzes the central themes and founding principles of the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. government.
- **Competency 1003.1.3: The Role of Federalism**  
The graduate analyzes the division of power between national and state governments.
- **Competency 1003.1.4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**  
The graduate analyzes the development and protection of individual civil liberties and civil rights.



- **Competency 1003.1.5: Branches of Government**  
The graduate analyzes the powers of each branch of government and the relationships among them.
- **Competency 1003.1.6: Public Opinion and the Media**  
The graduate analyzes the formation of personal and collective political opinions and the influence of the media.
- **Competency 1003.1.7: Political Participation, Political Parties, and Interest Groups**  
The graduate analyzes the role of individuals, interest groups, and political parties in the U.S. electoral system.

## Learning

This course will be difficult to pass if you do not fully engage with the course materials. Googling or reading the Wikipedia version will not prepare you to take the objective assessment.

You should plan on doing the following steps for each of the chapters listed in the pacing guide:

- Review the items from the [study guide](#) for a particular chapter
- Read the chapter in the MindTap resource
- Take notes on the study guide
- Review the flashcards provided in the chapter sections

Plan to take the preassessment after you have completed all of the course materials (read the Assessment Prep section for more information on the preassessment).

## Learning Resource

This course uses the [Cengage MindTap](#) learning resource and includes the following text:

- Janda, K., Berry, J., Goldman, J., & Schildkraut, D. (2014). *The Challenge of Democracy: American Government in Global Politics* (12<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-133-60233-0

The following video will show you how to access your Cengage MindTap learning resource and install the mobile app to your mobile device:

- [MindTap App Navigational Video](#)

Before beginning chapter 1, download the [C181 Course Study Guide](#). This study guide will guide you in your studies. It is an essential resource for preparing for the objective assessment.

## The United States Constitution



The [Constitution](#) is the supreme law of the United States. In order to gain a better grasp of the themes and principles of the Constitution, students might find it valuable to read the text of the Constitution while working in chapter 3 of the learning resource.

## Pacing and Study Guide

### Study Guide

Before you begin working in the learning resource, you should download the [course study guide](#). This study guide will help you prepare for the objective assessment. You should take notes on each of the questions as you work through the related chapters. After completing your work in this course, your study guide will be a valuable resource for reviewing the course material before taking your pre-assessment and objective assessment.

### Pacing Guide

This is the pacing guide/checklist for topics and tasks each week for this course. Download and save or print this checklist to track your progress. This course is designed to take a new learner approximately 15-20 hours of work per week. Keep in mind, the amount of chapters assigned to each week will vary. Plan your schedule accordingly and carry tasks over into the subsequent week if necessary.

This pacing guide reflects a **6-week study plan** and can be downloaded by clicking the following link: [Six Week Study Plan](#). For accelerated pacing guides please select one from the list by clicking the link below:

[Three Week Study Plan](#)

[Four Week Study Plan](#)

[Five Week Study Plan](#)

### Week 1

#### **SCOPE, IDEOLOGIES, AND CONSTITUTION**

##### **Main Focus:**

Topic 1: Scope and Ideologies of Government

Topic 2: Principles and Structures

Topic 3: Constitutional History

##### **Tasks:**

- Download study guide.
- If you have previous experience with United States Constitution and Government take the pre-assessment. Use the Coaching Report and the guidance of a mentor to target your studying.



- Read Chapter 1: *Freedom, Order, or Equality?*
- Read Chapter 2: *Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy?*
- Read Chapter 3: *The Constitution*
- Complete chapter activities, study guide questions, and quizzes for each chapter.

**Communication Study and Practice:**

- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

**Week 2**

**THE ROLE OF FEDERALISM, PUBLIC OPINION, AND THE MEDIA**

**Main Focus:**

Topic 4: Federalism

Topic 5: Public Opinion and the Media

**Tasks:**

- Read Chapter 4: *Federalism*
- Read Chapter 5: *Public Opinion and Political Socialization*
- Read Chapter 6: *The Media*
- Complete chapter activities, study guide questions, and quizzes for each chapter.

**Communication Study and Practice:**

- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

**Week 3**

**PARTICIPATION, PARTIES, AND GROUPS**

**Main Focus:**

Topic 6: Participation, Parties, and Groups

**Tasks:**

- Read Chapter 7: *Participation and Voting*
- Read Chapter 8: *Political Parties*
- Read Chapter 9: *Nominations, Elections, and Campaigns*
- Read Chapter 10: *Interest Groups*
- Complete chapter activities, study guide questions, and quizzes for each chapter.

**Communication Study and Practice:**



- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

#### **Week 4**

### **THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

#### **Main Focus:**

Topic 7: Branches of Government

#### **Tasks:**

- Read Chapter 11: *Congress*
- Read Chapter 12: *The Presidency*
- Read Chapter 13: *The Bureaucracy*
- Read Chapter 14: *The Courts*
- Complete chapter activities, study guide questions, and quizzes for each chapter.

#### **Communication Study and Practice:**

- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

#### **Week 5**

### **CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS**

#### **Main Focus:**

Topic 8: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

#### **Tasks:**

- Read Chapter 15: Order and Civil Liberties
- Read Chapter 16: Equality and Civil Rights
- Complete chapter activities, study guide questions, and quizzes for each chapter.

#### **Communication Study and Practice:**

- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

#### **Week 6**

### **OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT**



**Main Focus:**

Preparation and completion of course objective assessment.

**Tasks:**

- Review course materials to prepare for objective assessment.
- Take the pre-assessment, then contact the course mentor to prepare for the objective assessment. You are highly encouraged to take the pre-assessment now prior to the objective assessment, if you have not already or even if you have. There is value added in taking or retaking as the results can lead you in designing a study plan for successfully completing the objective assessment.
- Use the Coaching Report and the guidance of a mentor to target your studying.
- Complete objective assessment.

**Communication Study and Practice:**

- Re-read notes, quiz yourself using study questions, create mind-maps, flashcards, or other study tools, attend live cohort sessions, and contact course mentors with questions.

## Learning Events

### [C181 Learning Events](#)

This calendar shows the live events for Survey of United States Constitution and Government, including webinars with your course mentors and open, drop-in sessions. The events are listed in the Mountain Time zone.

**Please note: All of the meetings are shown in MT.**

Click on the calendar title (C181 Learning Events) to open the calendar in a new window.

## Launch Your Course

When you are ready to begin the course, click the "Launch Course" button:

[Launch Course](#)

## Mark Complete to Lock in Your Course of Study Progress

Once you are ready to start or are actively working in the MindTap learning resource, lock in your progress in the course of study. You only need to complete this step once; any future activity in the learning resource will be saved.

Click the check mark above or below if you are actively engaged in this course.



## **Assessment Prep**

### **The Preassessment**

The preassessment is a tool to help you determine your areas of strength and weakness with respect to the course content.

The course mentors recommend that you take the preassessment after you have worked through the course materials. The preassessment will help you know if you are ready to take the objective assessment.

After taking the preassessment, you will receive a coaching report. This report will help direct your study for the objective assessment. If you get a low score in a particular topic area, you should review your notes and the chapter materials. Making a study plan based on your coaching report is a good idea. Contact your course mentor if you would like help.

You may take the preassessment again after you have studied the areas that you need more study in.

### **Objective Assessment**

Upon completion of the activities in this course, you will be prepared to complete the objective assessment. Please click the Assessment Tab to access your assessments.