



**Social Studies Standard
Catalina Foothills School District
Grade 12: United States Government**

United States Government is a one-semester course that focuses on the fundamental concepts and practices of the American and Arizona systems of government. Course content will include an examination of the political process, political ideologies, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the three branches of government, as well as the rights and responsibilities of individuals in our government system. Students will also explore current issues at the local, state, national, and global levels and will primarily apply their understanding of concepts through projects, activities, simulations, and research.

1. Cultural Diversity and Interactions	
SS12.1.1	Describes the factors (<i>for example: demographics, political and economic systems, resources, culture</i>) that contribute to the variations between developing and developed regions in a global marketplace.
2. Spatial Thinking and Use of Charts, Maps, and Graphs	
SS12.2.2	Analyzes political maps, charts, and data.
3. Reciprocal Impact of Geography on People and Events	
SS12.3.1	Describes how geographical issues have impacted the structure of the U.S. government.
SS12.3.2	Explains the impact of changing demographics on the political process.
4. Economic Philosophies and Systems – not assessed	
5. Economic Decision-Making and Personal Finance – not assessed	
6. Rights, Responsibilities, and Participation in the Political Process	
SS12.6.1	Explains the roles that individuals play (<i>for example: interest groups, lobbyists, media</i>) in the political process at local, state and national levels (<i>for example: initiatives, petitions, propositions, referenda</i>).
SS12.6.2	Explains how the Electoral College functions and its efficacy with regard to other systems (<i>for example: instant-runoff voting, direct elections</i>).
SS12.6.3	Compares the U.S. system of politics to other systems of the world (<i>for example: monarchy, dictatorship, theocracy, oligarchy, parliamentary, unitary, proportional elections</i>).
SS12.6.4	Examines the basic political and social responsibilities of citizenship (<i>for example: connections between self-interest, common good, volunteerism; analyzing public issues, policymaking, evaluating candidates</i>).
7. Government Symbols, Structures, Laws, and Documents	
SS12.7.1	Explains the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of the federal government, as outlined in the U.S. and Arizona Constitution.
SS12.7.2	Explains the content and impact of the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments.
SS12.7.3	Explains the role the Supreme Court plays in the interpretation of legal issues (<i>for example: Constitution, appellate court cases</i>).
SS12.7.4	Describes the factors and processes (<i>for example: trade, political tensions, sanctions, terrorism</i>) that determine major domestic and U.S. foreign policies.
SS12.7.5	Describes world governmental and nongovernmental organizations (<i>for example: United Nations and agencies, NATO, EU, International Red Cross</i>).
8. Individuals, Groups, and Events that Shaped History	
SS12.8.1	Explains the significance of notable political thinkers (<i>required: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson (required: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson; for example: Noam Chomsky, William F. Buckley, Alexis DeToqueville</i>).
SS12.8.2	Explains current political leadership and their associated ideologies (<i>required: Speaker of the House, AZ Governor, President, Mayor & City Counsel, Board of Supervisors</i>).

9. Patterns of Change Over Time	
SS12.9.1	Describes how decisions made at various levels of government affect one another and policy over time (<i>for example: changing interest rates by the Federal Reserve, minimum wage levels, purchasing of goods, purchasing power, vetoes, overrides, amendments, court cases</i>).
10. Current Events/Issues and the Modern World	
SS12.10.1	Explains how current political/economic events (<i>for example: Supreme Court decisions, legislation, nominations, fiscal or monetary policy decisions</i>) connect to the decisions of national, state, and local governments.
SS12.10.2	Explains contemporary constitutional issues (<i>for example: Patriot Act, war on terror, Guantanamo Bay</i>).
SS12.10.3	Utilizes technology and media in the interpretation of political debate and discourse.
11. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	
SS12.11.1	Constructs support by developing a well-articulated argument for or against a specific social and/or economic issue (<i>for example: climate change, healthcare, immigration</i>).
SS12.11.2	Considers one perspective on an issue and the reasoning behind it, as well as an opposing perspective and the reasoning behind it.
SS12.11.3	Demonstrates problem solving by developing and testing a method for overcoming obstacles or constraints to reach a desired outcome (<i>for example: immigration - open borders versus border security; database and anecdotal evidence - supporting one viewpoint and articulating opposing arguments; articulating obstacles - develop solutions consistent with viewpoint</i>).
12. Research Skills for History	
SS12.12.1	Organizes and explains information in order to make an informed argument about a social or economic policy (<i>for example: research project</i>).
SS12.12.2	Utilizes various primary and secondary sources (<i>for example: newspaper, government and private sector databases</i>) in order to conduct research about a social or economic issue.
SS12.12.3	Documents and cites sources correctly using an appropriate format.

Measurement Topics # 4 (Economic Philosophies and Systems) and #5 (Economic Decision-making and Personal Finance) are not assessed in the US Government course.