

# Syllabus for Government Elective Class

The course is divided into the segments below

1. **Introduction to Government.**

What is democracy and how does it work?  
Other types of political governments and their definitions.  
Government vocabulary definitions.

2. **Overview of early American history.**

The First Americans.  
The Europeans Arrive.  
The Colonies Emerge.  
Virginia and the House of Burgesses.  
The Mayflower Compact.  
Mercantilism and Cash Crops.  
The Effects of the Enlightenment on early ideas.  
The Imperial Wars and the Albany Plan of the Union.

3. **The Declaration of Independence.**

Colonial Protests.  
The Road to Revolution.  
The Declaration of Independence (reading and project)  
The Articles of Confederation.

4. **What is a Constitution?**

The Constitutional Convention.  
The Constitution of the United States of America.  
Ratification of the Constitution.  
The Bill of Rights.  
The 27 Amendments of the Constitution.

5. **The Structure and Function of Government.**

The Executive Branch.  
The Electoral College System.

The Legislative Branch.  
How Congress operates.

The Judicial Branch.  
The role and make-up of the Supreme Court.

6. **Key Supreme Court Cases and Executive Orders.**

*Marbury v. Madison*

*Dred Scott v. Sanford*

*Plessy v. Ferguson*

The Chinese Exclusion Act.

*Korematsu v. United States*

*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*

7. **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, (1960's onwards).**

The Civil Rights Acts.

The Voting Rights.

*Miranda v. Arizona*

*Engel v. Vitale*

8. **The Constitution Today and how it effects American society.**

(Includes a written project)

Other issues faced by the government today both federal and local.

Domestic and Foreign policy issues today.