Home School Partners Course Guide – POL 123 (American Government)

Course Description

This course is a study of the foundations of government and the history of and concepts relating to the gov-ernment of the United States from its founding to the modern day. Students write 30 short (100-125-word) analyses of current American Government-related news articles.

Required Text:

*American Government for Christian Homeschoolers*, Scott Clifton

Content (List of the Principal Topics):

Unit 1: The basis for government; “separation between church and state”; Judeo-Christian, British, Greek, Roman. Renaissance, Reformation, and Enlightenment influences upon American government

Unit 2: U. S. colonial law, habeas corpus, English Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, state constitutions, Articles of Confederation, the U. S. Constitution

Unit 3: Interpreting the Constitution, the Constitution’s articles, the Bill of Rights

Unit 4: The beginning of America’s federal government, *Chisholm vs. Georgia*, Washington’s Farewell Address, foreign affairs, the Sedition Act, the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, nullification

Unit 5: The Election of 1800, political parties, *Marbury vs. Madison*, *McCulloch vs. Maryland*, tariffs, *Gibbons vs. Ogden*, secession, *Dred Scott vs. Sandford*, North/South War, Reconstruction

Unit 6: Amendments 13-17, Andrew Johnson, World War I, *Schenck vs. the United States*, the Federal Reserve, local government, government spending, FDR

Unit 7: *Schechter Poultry vs. the United States*, the Supreme Court, Social Security, taxes, education

Unit 8: Congress and constitutionality, war and government, presidential powers, pardons, vetoes, *Engel vs. Vitale*, Medicare and Medicaid, *Roe vs. Wade*, government powers during “emergencies”

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Evaluate historical sources.
2. Determine the Biblical basis and purposes of government.
3. Demonstrate understanding of various U. S. events, persons, and movements, and how they relate to government and American Government.
4. Think critically about American Government and apply critical thinking to other subjects.
5. Communicate effectively orally and in writing about American Government topics.
6. Demonstrate understanding of constitutional amendments and their impact.
7. Work in groups to produce solutions and answers to topical questions, and communicate those ideas in writing and orally.
8. Develop a philosophy of good and bad government and apply to hypothetical situations.

**Grading scale:**

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| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89.99% | B |
| 70-79.99% | C |
| 60-69.99% | D |
| 0-59.99% | F |