**Unit #1 - Overview**

The readings and coursework for this unit address the following course student learning outcomes:

• Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.

• Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.

• Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.

**Reading Assignments**

**We the People: Chapters 1-3**

In general skim the assigned readings, but pay particular attention to key terms and concepts on the study guide)

**Lesson Notes - Located in the Unit #1 Learning Module**

Please note that these lessons frequently contain video lesson links embedded in the text. If you print

out the lesson notes - please be aware of the sections marked “video lesson” and be sure to view that

material as the exams incorporate material from these sections that may or may not also be covered elsewhere in the course. The short answer questions will be primarily pulled from these lessons. Please refer to the study guide when reviewing the lesson notes.

**Graded Work**

1. **Assignment #1** – Begin reviewing the information on the first written assignment. It is not due until the end of unit #2

2. **Discussion Postings** - Choose **(one) 1** of the 2 topics (DISC 1-1 OR 1-2 not both) associated with the unit to participate in. Discussion guidelines are listed at the top of each topic overview and are also discussed in the Getting Started Module on the course orientation page. A detailed description each discussion topic can be found in the “Discussion Topics” area on the left hand menu.

3. **Exam #1** - Complete the unit exam prior to the close of the unit. There is a study guide for each unit that will help you prepare for the exam. . I encourage you to print out the study guide and have it available to you while reviewing the lesson notes for the unit. Remember this exam requires that you use Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor. No notes or books may be used during the exam.

4. **Extra Credit #1** - If you choose, complete the unit 1 extra credit assignment before the close of the unit.

Please remember, extra credit cannot be submitted late, they are only open during the unit that they are assigned.