***Foundations of Freedom***

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.  – Psalm 33:12*

**Suggested Syllabus**

**General Objectives**

By the end of the program, you should be able to:

* Explain why government is necessary and discuss the Bible’s teachings on the subject.
* Discuss the impact of biblical values in early American society, education and government.
* Identify basic differences between major forms of government.
* Distinguish between a republic and a democracy.
* Discuss the historical consequences surrounding the Constitution as well as the significance of it as a unifying document.
* Explain how the Constitution has helped to preserve our core American values, restrain man’s sinful nature, and limit government.
* Discuss the development, organization and functionality of the political party system.
* Explain the structure and powers of the three branches of government.
* Summarize the historical and modern-day methods of carrying out America’s foreign policy.
* Effectively engage the political process in prayer, service, and activism.

**Using the Video Lectures**

Each video covers the main points from that chapter. The videos average 30-minutes in length. You can watch the entire video during the first week of a new chapter or split it up over two weeks – that depends on what works best for your student(s).

**Homework**

If you are using this for homeschooling, students are expected to stay current on chapter reading assignments, Section Quizzes, Student Activity assignments. Homework assignments should be due the day they take the chapter tests.

Homework should be completed with minimal parental input.

In the suggested syllabus I have chosen one Student Activity for each chapter, but there are multiple options for each chapter in the Student Activity book that you should get from BJU Press. The choices I include are the ones I use in my class.

**Testing**

There are 18 chapter tests in the BJU curriculum, but no mid-term or final test. Tests consist of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and 1-3 essay questions. Students should be able to complete tests in 30-40 minutes. REMEMBER – all of the items in **RED** on the PowerPoint slides will appear on the tests…but they are not the ONLY things on the test!

**Grades**

This is how I have weighted the grades when I teach Foundations of Freedom in person:

* 18 Chapter Tests = 75% of the final grade
* Section Quizzes & Student Activities = 20% of the final grade
* Discussion/Class Participation = 5% of the final grade

I would usually give 3-5 extra-credit assignments throughout the school year. Some examples are:

* Watch and critique a political debate
* Watch and critique the President’s State of the Union speech
* Watch and critique a political movie (your choice, age appropriate)
* Attend a city government meeting and report on the experience

I would usually give anywhere from 10-20 extra-credit points which got added to their overall test scores.

**Required Materials**

**Textbook:** American Government for Christian Schools (**3rd Edition**) by Tim Keesee, BJU Press, Greenville SC.

**Tests & Student Activities:** These are also available through BJU Press and are the ones I use in the class I teach personally. Be sure to get the ones that go along with the 3rd Edition!

Class Notebook: Taking notes, storing papers/assignments, graded tests.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions, need some advice, or just want to share your comments on Foundations of Freedom, please contact me at:

Email: Steve@c2atoday.com

Website: www.c2atoday.com/foundations

Address: P.O. Box 99162, Raleigh NC, 27624

**Detailed Class Schedule (Example)**

**Week 1** **Chapter 1: The Only Sure Foundation**

Homework due before class:

* Read chapter 1

Homework due NEXT week:

* Ch. 1 Section Quizzes
* Student Activity: “Paul’s Example”
* Study for test!
* Begin reading chapter 2
* Pray for our leaders: Federal (visit www.pray1tim2.org)

**Week 2** **Chapter 2: Forms of Government** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 1

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 1 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of chapter 2
* Work on Chapter 2 Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Systems of Government”
* Pray for our leaders: State

**Week 3** **Chapter 2: Forms of Government** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 2 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading chapter 3
* Pray for leaders: Local

**Week 3** **Chapter 3: Christian Beginnings in America** (part 1)

*Special Note: I lecture and teach this chapter using the 2nd Edition of the textbook, which I believe does a much better job of unpacking our Christian heritage in America as well as it’s influence on the overall direction of the nation’s founding. That being said, I strongly recommend that you use both my lecture (the previous edition) as well as the Chapter 3 material in the 3rd Edition. This information is so critical that we all need more of it…not less.*

TEST: Chapter 2

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 2 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of chapter 3
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Wall of Separation”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 4** **Chapter 3: Christian Beginnings in America** (Part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 3 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading chapter 4
* Pray for our leaders: State

**Week 5** **Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings** (Part 1)

TEST: Chapter 3

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect chapter 3 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of chapter 4
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “The Role of States”
* Pray for our leaders: Local

**Week 6** **Chapter 4: Constitutional Beginnings** (Part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 4 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading chapter 5
* Pray for our leaders: Federal

**Week 7 Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 4

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Chapter 4 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading chapter 5
* Work on Ch. 5 Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “The General Welfare”
* Pray for: ELECTIONS? LEADERS IN GENERAL?

**Week 8** **Chapter 5: The Constitutional Cornerstone** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading chapter 6
* Pray for: ELECTIONS!!!

**Week 9** **Chapter 6: Federalism**

TEST: Chapter 5

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Chapter 5 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of chapter 6
* Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity: “Federalism’s Development”
* Begin reading Ch. 7
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 10 Chapter 7: State and Local Government** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 6

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 6 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 7
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Leviathan”
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 11** **Chapter 7: State and Local Government** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 8
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 12** **Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 7

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 7 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 8
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Your Rep’s/Senator’s Committee Assignments”
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 13 Chapter 8: The Structure of Congress** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 8 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 9
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 14 Chapter 9: The Power of Congress** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 8

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 8 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 9
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Destructive Dependence”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 15 Chapter 9: The Power of Congress** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Sections Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 10
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 16** **Chapter 10: The Presidency – Road to the White House** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 9

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 9 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 10
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Presidential Qualifications & Qualities”
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 17 Chapter 10: The Presidency – Road to the White House** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 10 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 11
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 18** **Chapter 11: America’s Highest Office** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 10

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 10 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 11
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “The Proper Attitude”
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 19 Chapter 11: America’s Highest Office** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 11 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 12
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 20** **Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 11

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 11 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 12
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “The Cabinet”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 21 Chapter 12: The Federal Bureaucracy** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 12 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 13
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 22** **Chapter 13: Foreign Policy** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 12

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 12 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 13
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Global Interventionism”
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 23 Chapter 13: Foreign Policy** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 13 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 14
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 24** **Chapter 14: The Judiciary** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 13

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 13 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 14
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Criteria for Supreme Court Justices”
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 25 Chapter 14: The Judiciary** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 14 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 15
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 26** **Chapter 15: Civil Rights and Responsibilities** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 14

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 14 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 15
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Separation of Church and State”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 27 Chapter 15: Civil Rights and Responsibilities** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 15 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 16
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 28** **Chapter 16: The Party System** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 15

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 15 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 16
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Washington’s Farewell Address”
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 29 Chapter 16: The Party System** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 17
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 30** **Chapter 17: Campaigns & Elections** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 16

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 17
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “The Role of New Media in Political Campaigning”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 31 Chapter 17: Campaign & Elections** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Begin reading Ch. 18
* Pray for Leaders: State

**Week 32** **Chapter 18: Public Policy & Politics** (part 1)

TEST: Chapter 17

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 17 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework due NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 18
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Mass Media Cartoon”
* Pray for Leaders: Local

**Week 33 Chapter 18: Public Policy & Politics** (part 2)

Homework due NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Complete Ch. 18 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week 34 Final Class**

Test: Chapter 18

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 18 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Final Discussion

* What were some course highlights?
* How do you feel about your role as a Christian living in America?
* What do you think you should do with what you have learned in Foundations of Freedom?
* Close in prayer over these points and be sure to pray for our elected officials!

**Week Chapter 17: Campaign and Elections** (part 1)

Test: Chapter 16

* Taken at the beginning of class
* Collect Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity

Homework for NEXT week:

* Complete reading of Ch. 9
* Work on Section Quizzes
* Work on Student Activity: “Pork Political Cartoon”
* Pray for Leaders: Federal

**Week**  **Chapter 17: Campaign and Elections** (part 2)

Homework for NEXT week:

* Study for test!
* Begin reading Ch. 18
* Complete Ch. 16 Section Quizzes & Student Activity
* Pray for Leaders: Federal, State, Local