Introduction

I. Background: Covenants and Compacts: from Colonies to States

A. The Mayflower Compact (1620)

B. The Declaration of Independence (1776)

C. The Articles of Confederation (1777)

II. The Constitution: An Overview: from These United States to This United States

A. The original Constitution (1787)

B. Article 5 of the Constitution (the amendment process)

C. The Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10) (1789)

D. The Amendments after the Civil War (Amendments 13-15) (1865, 1868, 1870)

[E. "Constitutional Moments" (1930's? 1950's and 1960's?)]

Federal-State Relations

III. Federalism: Creating and Limiting Governmental Power: the Federal/State Division

A. Article VI, paragraph 2: The Supreme Law of the Land

B. The role of the States

   i. Article I, section 10; Amendment 10

   ii. The law of the States: Article IV

   iii. Legal-political experiments

   iv. The Electoral College: [Article II, section 1]; Amendment 12

   v. Amendment 14: 1930's: present
C. The Role of the Federal Government: Overview
   i. Article I, section 8: Congress
   ii. Article II, section 2: President
   iii. Article III, section 2: Court
   iv. Amendment 10: Delegated powers only.

D. The unwritten and developing law of federalism
   [E. The Third Sovereign: Indian Nations (Native American Tribes)]

   Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of Government

IV. Creating and Limiting Governmental Power: Congress, President, Supreme Court
   A. Congress: Article I (House of Representatives and Senate)
   B. President: Article II
   C. Courts: Article III
   D. The relations between the three branches: conflict and statesmanship
   E. Constitutional Law as Supreme Court Law.

Citizens

V. Creating and Limiting Governmental Power: Elections
   A. The role of parties (Democratic Party; Republican Party)

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1 Both federal and state governments are divided into three branches. State’s legislative branches are generally called the Legislature (usually with both a Senate and a House of Representatives). The state executive is the Governor.
B. The role of money and television

C. Voter qualifications
   i. Article I, section 2 (determined by States)
   ii. Amendment 14, section 1 (former slaves made citizens)
   iii. Amendment 15 (race, color, or former slavery)
   iv. Amendment 19 (women)
   v. Amendment 24 (no poll tax)
   vi. Amendment 26 (age: 18 years old)

D. Federal, state, and local voting

E. Party primaries and nominating conventions

F. Most citizens do not vote

[VI. Creating and Limiting Governmental Power: Citizen's Rights]

[A. The Bill of Rights]

[B. Amendment 14]