

Syllabus & Pacing Guide

1.) Syllabus & Pacing Guide

US GOVERNMENT & CITIZENSHIP (CIVICS & GOVERNMENT)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to foster informed, responsible participation in public life. Knowing how to be a good citizen is essential to the preservation and improvement of the United States. Upon completion of this course, the student will understand the major ideas, protections, rights, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen in the United States. Additionally, students will practice the skills needed to conduct inquiries, weigh evidence, make informed decisions, and participate in political processes. This course should nurture desirable dispositions, including a commitment to the American ideals of liberty, equality, opportunity, and justice for all. This course is recommended for seniors due to their proximity to voting age.

This is a one-semester course, which is equivalent to a half school year.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Foundational Practices for Civic Preparation: One of the fundamental purposes of public schools is the preparation of young people for participation in America's democratic republic. The future progress of our communities, state, nation, and world rests upon the preparation of young people to collaboratively and deliberatively address problems, defend their own rights and liberties, as well as the rights and liberties of others, and balance personal preferences with the common good. Social studies and history classrooms are the ideal venues to nurture civic virtue, consider current issues, practice acting civilly toward others, build a civic identity, and nurture global awareness. These skills, habits, and qualities of character will better prepare students to recognize and accept responsibility for preserving and defending the liberties secured by the Constitution.

To reach these ends, students should have ample opportunities to:

- Engage in deliberative, collaborative, and civil dialogue regarding historical and current issues.
- Apply knowledge of governmental structure, historical concepts, geographic interrelationships, and economic principles to analyze and explain current events.
- Identify local, state, national, or international problems, consider solutions to these problems, and share their ideas with appropriate public and/or private stakeholders.
- Develop and demonstrate the values that sustain America's democratic republic, such as open-mindedness, engagement, honesty, problem-solving, responsibility, diligence, resilience, empathy, self-control, and cooperation.
- Engage in dialogue regarding American exceptionalism, in the sense of the special character of the United States as a uniquely free nation based on democratic ideals and personal liberty.

COURSE STANDARDS

Visit the next lesson page for a full list of core standards of the course.

COURSE SUBMISSIONS

All assignments will be graded through Spark. Any attachments must be made in a Word document file, PDF, or Google Doc shareable link and turned in through Spark or directly to the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

None - All readings will be provided on Spark

GRADING BREAKDOWN

A 94-100%	C 73-76%
A- 90-93%	C- 70-72%
B+ 87-89%	D+ 67-69%
B 83-87%	D 63-66%
B- 80-82%	D- 59-63%
C+ 77-79%	F 58% or below

GRADED WEIGHT OF SCHOOLWORK

- **Assignments: 36%**
 - There are a total of 8 assignments and 1 Final Paper
 - Each assignment is worth roughly 4% of your final course grade. Note that the Final Paper is worth 150 points, whereas the other assignments are worth 50-100 points each.
- **Quizzes: 44%**
 - There are a total of 22 quizzes. Each quiz is worth roughly 2% of your final course grade.
- **Post-Assessment Term/Quarter 1 & 2: 20%**
 - There are two final term/quarter exams. Each one is worth roughly 10% of your final course grade.
 - The questions on the post-assessments come from the same question bank as the quizzes.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND PACING

A typical semester course at a traditional high school requires 80 hours in total, which is 40 hours per term. Since this is a self-pace course, it may take you longer or shorter to complete this course. It is expected that you spend 3-5 hours each week and submit at least one unit each.

Students will be allowed to complete the course at a pace that best suits them. The students will be responsible for completing and turning in all assignments according to their individual needs.

However, make sure to look at your school's deadlines, to ensure that you are completing courses on track.

Parents/Guardians will be able to observe and view their student's progress through Spark upon request.

It is suggested that you put the assignments in your calendar at the beginning of the semester so you know which work to complete each week.

Week 1	<p>Unit 1: Welcome!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to read the syllabus <p>Unit 2: What is Government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: What is Government? ◦ Assignment: Civic Engagement ◦ Quiz: Origins of Government
Week 2	<p>Unit 3: The Declaration of Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Declaration of Independence ◦ Assignment: My Declaration of Independence
Week 3	<p>Unit 4: Articles of Confederation & The Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Articles of Confederation & Development of Constitution ◦ Assignment: The Bill of Rights & Amendments ◦ Quiz: The Constitution & Bill of Rights
Week 4	<p>Unit 5: Federalism & Sovereignty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Federalism ◦ Quiz: Indigenous People's Sovereignty
Week 5	<p>Unit 6: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Civil Liberties ◦ Assignment: Exploring Civil Rights Issues ◦ Quiz: Civil Rights
Week 6	<p>Unit 7: Voting & Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Voter Registration & Turnout ◦ Quiz: Elections, Campaigns, & Voting
Week 7	<p>Unit 8: Term/Quarter 1 Post-Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term/Quarter 1 Post-Assessment
Week 8	<p>Unit 10: Public Opinion & The Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: The Politics of Public Opinion ◦ Quiz: The Media ◦ Assignment: News Bias

Week 9	Unit 11: The Legislative Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Branches of Government & Congress ◦ Quiz: How a Bill Becomes a Law
Week 10	Unit 12: The Executive Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: The Executive Branch ◦ Quiz: The Electoral Process
Week 11	Unit 13: The Judicial Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: The Judicial Branch ◦ Quiz: Federal & State Courts ◦ Assignment: Supreme Court Case Analysis
Week 12	Unit 14: Political Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Political Parties & The Two-Party System ◦ Quiz: Modern Political Parties & Partisan Polarization
Week 13	Unit 15: Domestic & Foreign Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Quiz: Foreign Affairs Policy ◦ Assignment: Letter to a Congressman
Week 14	Unit 15: Domestic & Foreign Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final US Government Paper
Week 15	Unit 16: Term/Quarter 2 Post-Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Term/Quarter 2 Post-Assessment ◦ Course Evaluation <p>Congrats! You finished Semester 1 of US Government & Citizenship!</p>

ONLINE TECHNOLOGIES

This course takes place online. Since we will not meet face-to-face, it is your responsibility to have the necessary technology and technical know-how to work effectively in this online learning environment. This online course will utilize Spark as the learning management system. If you have trouble logging in or viewing any of the documents and links posted, please contact your instructor.

2.) Core Standards of the Course

The United States Government and Citizenship core standards are organized into **STRANDS**, which represent significant areas of learning within content areas. Depending on the core area, these strands may be designated by time periods, thematic principles, modes of practice, or other organizing principles.

Within each strand are standards. A **STANDARD** is an articulation of the demonstrated proficiency to be obtained. A standard represents an essential element of the learning that is expected. While some standards within a strand may be more comprehensive than others, all standards are essential for mastery.

U.S. GOV Strand 1: FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

The framework of the United States Constitution and the functions of government are guided by principles essential for our way of life. An understanding of how these principles are applied in the rule of law, government, and politics is vital in order to be a responsible and effective citizen. Students need to be able to see how the ideals found in the Constitution are present in many of the issues of the day.

U.S. GOV Strand 2: CIVIL LIBERTIES, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

American citizenship brings with it civil liberties, civil rights, and responsibilities. Students must know their rights and responsibilities and understand the extent of those rights. Students should be able to defend their own rights and the rights of others, understanding that the Constitution and its amendments extend protections to individuals who may not share their views. Our nation's future rests on the ability and willingness of every generation to fulfill their civic responsibilities.

U.S. GOV Strand 3: DISTRIBUTION OF POWER

The Constitution distributes authority between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Additionally, power embedded in the federalist system, or compound constitutional republic, is distributed between the federal, state, and local governments. American Indian tribal governments maintain a unique relationship with other levels and branches of government, adding yet another dimension for consideration. Finally, individuals and groups use a range of strategies and methods for wielding their own political power.

U.S. GOV Strand 4: FISCAL POLICIES AND DECISIONS

Fiscal policies can have profound implications for the daily lives of citizens. An essential component of understanding government and civics rests in deliberating the government's role in the economy. Informed citizens understand taxation, budgets, and debt as these concepts relate to the government. Students use this understanding of basic economic principles to make informed decisions, knowing that economic policies are a reflection of economic philosophies and values.

U.S. GOV Strand 5: THE U.S. AND OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD

As a global superpower with an enormous influence on other nations, it is vital to understand the ways in which the U.S. interacts with the world. Whether through negotiating trade agreements, protecting the security of this nation and its allies, cooperating in humanitarian campaigns, creating infrastructure to handle immigration and refugee demands, or any number of other initiatives, this nation has significant interrelationships with other countries and international bodies. These complex relationships deserve study if students are to understand the global implications of decisions made by leaders and policymakers.

3.) Navigating the Course

Let's get started! To begin, click on the navigation menu and scroll down to the first unit. The navigation buttons in each lesson will take you to the next activity, or you can return to the main navigation menu at any time.

Congratulations

Click **NEXT ACTIVITY** to continue
or **DONE** to go back to the Course.

