

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	<p>Unit 11: The Legislative Branch</p> <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	<p>Unit 12: The Executive Branch</p> <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	<p>Unit 13: The Judicial Branch</p> <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	<p>Unit 14: Political Parties</p> <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	<p>Unit 15: Domestic & Foreign Policy</p> <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	<p>Unit 15: Domestic & Foreign Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Final US Government Paper
Week 15	<p>Unit 16: Term/Quarter 2 Post-Assessment</p> <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.