

Barrington High School Social Studies Department
11th-12th Grade Civics

Course Description: Civics is a course in which students learn the content and skills necessary to be active, engaged citizens of their community, state, and nation. Course topics include the six principles of the US Constitution, the political spectrum and its relation to political parties in the US, political behaviors and socialization, the role of campaigns and elections in our political system, the structure, function, and powers of the three branches of government, and the Bill of Rights. The course emphasizes discussion and deliberation, and encourages students to develop informed personal opinions about political controversies. Students also take part in large simulations of the democratic process and service learning throughout the course.

Course Essential Question: To what extent are the six purposes of American government, as defined in the Preamble, being fulfilled by our civic institutions?				
Semester 1 Priority Standards by Domain				
Content Priority Standards (from C3)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze the role of citizens in the US political system, with attention to various theories of democracy, changes in Americans' participation over time, & alternative models from other countries, past and present. (C2) ● Analyze the impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order. (C3) ● Explain how the US Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested. (C4) ● Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level. (C5) ● Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights. (C14) 				
Skills Priority Standards (from C3)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D3.1.9-12. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection. ● D3.3.9-12. Identify evidence that draws information directly and substantially from multiple sources to detect inconsistencies in evidence in order to revise or strengthen. ● D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. ● D4.2.9-12. Construct explanations using sound reasoning, correct sequence (linear or non-linear), examples, and details with significant and pertinent information and data, while acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the explanation given its purpose (e.g., cause and effect, chronological, procedural and technical). 				
Units of Study				
Foundations of American Government	Political Beliefs and Behaviors	Elections and Campaigns	Policymaking	Judiciary and Civil Liberties
Essential Questions:	Essential Questions:	Essential Questions:	Essential Questions:	Essential Questions:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the U.S. Constitution balance liberty and order? • How does the U.S. Constitution attempt to limit the concentration of power in government institutions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the ways American citizens develop and act on their political beliefs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do campaigns influence voters and set the political agenda for the nation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does federal government take action in the best interest of the nation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the way that the founding documents are interpreted impact my life and community?
<p>Priority Standard and Learning Targets for Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements on the maintenance of national and international order. (C3) • Explain how the US Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested. (C4) <p>Possible Key Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3.1.9-12. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection. • D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. 	<p>Priority Standard and Learning Targets for Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the role of citizens in the US political system, with attention to various theories of democracy, changes in Americans' participation over time, & alternative models from other countries, past and present. (C2) • Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level. (C5) <p>Key Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3.1.9-12. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection. • D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. 	<p>Priority Standard and Learning Targets for Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the role of citizens in the US political system, with attention to various theories of democracy, changes in Americans' participation over time, & alternative models from other countries, past and present. (C2) • Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level. (C5) <p>Key Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. • D4.2.9-12. Construct explanations using sound reasoning, correct sequence (linear or non-linear), examples, and details with significant and pertinent 	<p>Priority Standard and Learning Targets for Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the US Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested. (C4) • Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights. (C14) <p>Key Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3.1.9-12. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection. • D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. 	<p>Priority Standard and Learning Targets for Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the US Constitution establishes a system of government that has powers, responsibilities, and limits that have changed over time and that are still contested. (C4) • Analyze historical, contemporary, and emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights. (C14) <p>Key Performance Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D4.1.9-12. Construct arguments using precise and knowledgeable claims, with evidence from multiple sources, while acknowledging counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses. • D4.2.9-12. Construct explanations using sound reasoning, correct sequence (linear or non-linear), examples, and details with significant and pertinent information and data, while acknowledging the strengths

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	<p>counterclaims and evidentiary weaknesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D4.2.9-12. Construct explanations using sound reasoning, correct sequence (linear or non-linear), examples, and details with significant and pertinent information and data, while acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the explanation given its purpose (e.g., cause and effect, chronological, procedural and technical). 	<p>information and data, while acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of the explanation given its purpose (e.g., cause and effect, chronological, procedural and technical).</p>		<p>and weaknesses of the explanation given its purpose (e.g., cause and effect, chronological, procedural and technical).</p>
<p>Unit Topics and Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local Government / State (What are the levels of government and how do they impact me?) ● Constitutional Creation and Philosophical Foundations ● Bill of Rights ● Federalism ● Limited Government 	<p>Unit Topics and Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American Political Values ● Political Socialization ● Political Behaviors ● Political Parties 	<p>Unit Topics and Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types of Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary vs. General ● Electoral College ● Operations of Campaigns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Structure ○ Campaign Finance ○ Interest Groups ○ Media 	<p>Unit Topics and Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leg./Exec. of American Government and legislative process ● Executive Structure, Powers, and Operations ● Legislative Structure, Powers, and Operations 	<p>Unit Topics and Terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Federal Courts Structure ● SCOTUS Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appellate ○ Writ of Certiorari ● Deliberations (Options) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bill of Rights (Current Issues / Relevant case deliberations)