

Course/Grade Level: Political Science
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Days	Unit	Standard(s)/Outcome(s)	Essential/Guiding Questions
5	Unit 1: Constitutional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the features of a modern state system and provide examples of its influence on the conduct and politics of national government. • Describe the importance of the philosophies of the Enlightenment and the theory of natural rights to the framing of the Constitution. • Explain how the principles of democracy played a role in the development of the Constitution. • Define the basic tenets of American democracy as found in the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and other appropriate documents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the characteristics of a state? • How do the principles and structures of the United States government assist and/or impede meeting the purposes of government while protecting the rights and authority of citizens?
15	Unit 2: The Political Process and Political Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate decisions related to personal options, societal problems, and political issues in terms of reasoned values and reliable information. • Examine and evaluate historical and contemporary election results and voting patterns. • Explain the relationship between government and politics and identify ways in which citizens, both individually and as group members, attempt to influence public policy through political actions. • Examine the historical and contemporary involvement of American citizens in the electoral process and evaluate the methods used to encourage such citizens participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do political ideology and socialization influence American voters? • How have political parties formed and changed over time? • What factors influence an individual's voting behavior?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the role individuals, political parties, and various interest groups play in the American political system. • Examine the development of opinions as influenced by the media and various propaganda techniques. 	
15	Unit 3: The Institutions of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the function and organization of the United States Congress and examine its expressed and implied powers. • Examine the role of legislator and the resolution of political issues in order to accurately identify the processes involved in the passage of legislation. • Examine the function and organization of the Executive Branch, the electoral process, the sources and limitations of the President's power, and the various roles that the President is expected to fulfill. • Explain the function and organization of the Supreme Court, examine factors that influence Supreme Court decisions, limits on the power of the Court, and ways in which the Supreme Court influences governmental policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the foundational principles and structures of government assist or impede the functioning of government in the legislative branch? • How do the foundational principles and structures of government assist or impede the functioning of government in the executive branch? • How do the foundational principles and structures of government assist or impede the functioning of government in the judicial branch?
5	Unit 4: Public Policy Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the link the economy has to the political process and to the outcome of elections. • Examine the federal budget making process, problems caused by the growing budget, and how this area is of primary concern to the public. • Evaluate the history, successes, failures, and the future of social welfare and entitlement programs. • Examine government policies related to the environment and energy. • Examine executive decision-making in order to identify and apply problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the United States balance competing socio-economic goals? • How does the government balance competing interpretations of the common good in order to implement public policy? • How does the United States balance competing foreign policy goals?

		<p>solving skills to public issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain who makes foreign policy, how the nation's goals are established, the role of public opinion, the status of national defense establishment, and the movement toward a new global interdependence.	
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