



# North Polk Community Schools Pacing & Course Description Guide



Grade Level: 11-12

Content: AP Government & Politics

Year: 2022-23

## Course Description/Rationale

This course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course covers constitutional underpinnings of the U.S. government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties and interest groups, the institutions and policy process of national government, and civil rights and liberties. Students earn a weighted grade and will be given the opportunity to take the AP test in the spring. (1 HS credit)

Name of Unit	Time Frame	Essential Learning Target	Standard(s)
Foundations of American Democracy	8 Weeks	<p>Explain how democratic ideals are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.</p> <p>Explain how Federalist and Anti-Federalist views on central government and democracy are reflected in U.S. foundational documents.</p> <p>Explain the constitutional principles of separation of powers and “checks and balances.”</p> <p>Explain how the appropriate balance of power between national and state governments has been interpreted differently over time.</p>	SS-Gov.9-12.15. SS-Gov.9-12.16. SS-Gov.9-12.20. SS-Gov.9-12.22.
Interactions Among Branches of Government	10 Weeks	<p>Describe the different structures, powers, and functions of each house of Congress.</p> <p>Explain how congressional behavior is influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government.</p> <p>Explain how the president’s agenda can create tension and frequent confrontations with Congress.</p> <p>Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of formal and informal powers.</p> <p>Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.</p>	SS-Gov.9-12.13. SS-Gov.9-12.16. SS-Gov.9-12.17. SS-Gov.9-12.23. SS-Gov.9-12.24.
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	6 Weeks	<p>Explain how the U.S. Constitution protects individual liberties and rights.</p>	SS-Gov.9-12.13. SS-Gov.9-12.14. SS-Gov.9-12.16.

		<p>Describe the rights protected in the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>Explain how the Supreme Court has attempted to balance claims of individual freedom with laws and enforcement procedures that promote public order and safety.</p> <p>Explain the implications of the doctrine of selective incorporation.</p>	<p>SS-Gov.9-12.19.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.20.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.24.</p>
American Political Ideologies and Beliefs	6 Weeks	<p>Explain the relationship between core beliefs of U.S. citizens and attitudes about the role of government.</p> <p>Explain how cultural factors influence political attitudes and socialization.</p> <p>Explain how U.S. political culture (e.g., values, attitudes, and beliefs) influences the formation, goals, and implementation of public policy over time.</p>	<p>SS-Gov.9-12.15.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.18.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.20.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.21.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.26.</p>
Political Participation	6 Weeks	<p>Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.</p> <p>Describe different models of voting behavior.</p> <p>Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections</p> <p>Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and government.</p>	<p>SS-Gov.9-12.14.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.18.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.19.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.20.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.21.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.24.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.25.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.26.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.27.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.28.</p>