



# North Polk Community Schools Pacing & Course Description Guide



Grade Level: 11-12

Content: Government

Year: 2022-23

## Course Description/Rationale

This course meets the Government course requirement from the state of Iowa. Topics studied in this course include: Comparing forms of government, founding documents of American democracy, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and civil liberties, Federalism, civic participation, political parties and interest groups, political campaigns and elections, the legislative branch, the executive branch, the judicial branch, and state and local government in Iowa. (1 HS credit)

Name of Unit	Time Frame	Essential Learning Target	Standard(s)
Comparing Forms of Government	1 Week	Compare and contrast the different forms of government found in the world today and throughout history.	SS-Gov.9-12.15.
Foundations of American Democracy	4 Weeks	Give examples of how Enlightenment thought influenced the founding fathers.  Identify examples of the Social Contract in the Declaration of Independence.  Explain how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the Constitutional Convention.  Understand the contents of the Constitution and the features of the government under the Constitution.	SS-Gov.9-12.15. SS-Gov.9-12.16. SS-Gov.9-12.17. SS-Gov.9-12.20.
The Legislative Branch	2 Weeks	Identify the formal powers of Congress as outlined in Article I of the Constitution.  Detail the lawmaking process.  Identify the leadership positions in Congress.	SS-Gov.9-12.13. SS-Gov.9-12.17. SS-Gov.9-12.23.
The Executive Branch	2 Weeks	Identify the formal powers of the President as outlined in Article II of the Constitution.  Explain the role the executive departments play in the implementation of public policy.  Describe the many roles a President must perform while in office.	SS-Gov.9-12.13. SS-Gov.9-12.17. SS-Gov.9-12.23.

The Judicial Branch	2 Weeks	<p>Understand the structure of the federal court system.</p> <p>Compare various philosophies of Constitutional interpretation.</p> <p>Discuss how major Supreme Court cases have impacted law and society in the United States.</p>	<p>SS-Gov.9-12.14.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.17.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.20.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.24.</p>
Political Parties and Interest Groups	2 Weeks	<p>Compare and contrast the characteristics of political parties and interest groups and how these organizations aim to influence government and public policy.</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.9-12.21.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.25.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.26.</p>
Campaigns and Elections	2 Weeks	<p>Discuss the many ways that campaigns and elections connect citizens to the political process.</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.9-12.21.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.26</p>
State and Local Government	1 Week	<p>Describe the basic structure of state government in Iowa.</p>	<p>SS-Gov.9-12.13.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.22.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.23.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.27.</p> <p>SS-Gov.9-12.28.</p>