

Practical Law- Western High School

Resources:

Street Law: A Course in Practical Law. National Textbook Company, 6th edition

http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/

Participate in 12th District Court, Jackson, MI Law Day/Week, Kathleen Ellis

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Numerous Case Studies/Handouts/Mock Trial

Quarter 1: Foundations of Law, Court Systems, Criminal Law, Mock Trial & The Criminal Justice Process

Textbook Chapters Covered: 1-12

Quarter 2: Constitutional Law, Torts, Contract Law, Elements of Contracts, Family Law & Current Issues

Textbook Chapters Covered: 13-24

Benchmarks Covered:

C2: Origins and Foundations of Government of the USA

2.1 Origins of American Constitutional Government

2.1.3 Explain how the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights reflected political principles of popular sovereignty, rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, social compact, natural rights, individual rights, separation of church and state, republicanism and federalism.

2.1.4 Explain challenges and modifications to American constitutional government as a result of significant historical events such as the civil rights movement.

Constitutional Framework of the US System

2.2 Foundational Values and Constitutional Principles of American Government

2.2.1 Identify and explain the fundamental values of America's constitutional republic (life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the common good, justice, equality, diversity, authority, participation, and patriotism) and their reflection in the principles of the US Constitution (popular sovereignty, republicanism, rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers and federalism)

2.2.2 Explain and evaluate how Americans, either through individual or collective actions, use constitutional principles and fundamental values to narrow gaps between American ideals and reality with respect to minorities, women, and the disadvantaged.

2.2.3 use past and present policies to analyze conflicts that arise in society due to competing constitutional principles or fundamental values (liberty and authority, justice and equality, individual rights, and the common good)

2.2.4 Analyze and explain issues about fundamental values like liberty, justice, and equality found in a range of documents (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Patriot Act)

2.2.5 Use examples to investigate why people may agree on constitutional principles and fundamental values in the abstract, yet disagree over their meaning when they are applied to specific situations

5.3 Rights of Citizenship

5.3.1 Identify and explain personal rights (freedom of thought, conscience, expression, association, movement and residence, the right to privacy, personal autonomy, due process of law, free exercise of religion, and equal protection of the law)

5.3.2 Identify and explain political rights (freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the right to vote and run for public office)

5.3.3 Identify and explain economic rights (the right to acquire, use, transfer, and dispose of property, choose one's work and change employment, join labor unions and professional associations, establish and operate a business, copyright protection, enter into lawful contracts, and just compensation for the taking of private property for public use)

5.3.4 Describe the relationship between personal, political, and economic rights and how they can sometimes conflict.

5.3.5 Explain considerations and criteria commonly used in determining what limits should be placed on specific rights.

5.3.6 Describe the rights protected by the First Amendment, and using case studies and examples, explore the limit and scope of First American rights.

5.3.7 using the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Amendments, describe the rights of the accused; and using case studies and examples, explore the limit and scope of these rights.

5.3.8 Explain and give examples of the role of the Fourteenth Amendment in extending the protection of individual rights against state action.

5.3.9 Use examples to explain why rights are not unlimited and absolute.

5.4 Responsibilities of Citizenship

5.4.1 Distinguish between personal and civic responsibilities and describe how they can sometimes conflict with each other.

5.4.2 Describe the importance of citizens' civic responsibilities including obeying the law.

C3 Structure and Functions of Government in the USA

3.1 Structure, Functions, and Enumerated Powers of National Government

3.1.1 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the legislative branch as enumerated in Article I of the Constitution.

3.1.2 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the executive branch as enumerated in Article II of the Constitution.

3.1.3 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the judicial branch as enumerated in Article III of the Constitution.

3.1.4 Identify the role of independent regulatory agencies in the federal bureaucracy

3.1.5 Use case studies or examples to examine tensions between the three branches of government (veto power, and judicial review).

3.2 Powers and Limits on Powers

3.2.1 Explain how the principles of enumerated powers, federalism, separation of powers, bicameralism, checks and balances, republicanism, rule of law,

individual rights, inalienable rights, separation of church and state, and popular sovereignty serve to limit the power of government.

3.2.2 Use court cases to explain how the Constitution is maintained as the supreme law of the land.

3.2.3 Identify specific provisions in the Constitution that limit the power of the federal government.

3.2.4 Explain the role of the Bill of Rights and each of its amendments in restraining the power of government over individuals.

3.2.5 Analyze the role of subsequent amendments to the Constitution in extending or limiting the power of government.

3.3 Structure and Functions of State and Local Governments

3.3.1 Describe limits the U.S. Constitution places on powers of the states and on the federal government's power over the states.

3.3.2 Identify and define states' reserved and concurrent powers.

3.3.3 Explain the tension among federal, state, and local governmental power.

3.3.4 Describe how state and local governments are organized, their major responsibilities, and how they affect the lives of citizens.

3.3.5 Describe the mechanisms by which citizens monitor and influence state and local governments (e.g., referendum, initiative, recall).

3.4 System of Law and Laws

3.4.1 Explain why the rule of law has a central place in American society (e.g., Supreme Court cases)

3.4.2 Describe what can happen in the absence or breakdown of the rule of law.

3.4.3 Explain the meaning and importance of equal protection of the law (e.g., the 14th Amendment, Americans with Disabilities Act, equal opportunity legislation).

3.4.4 Describe considerations and criteria that have been used to deny, limit, or extend protection of individual rights (e.g., clear and present danger, time, place and manner restrictions on speech, compelling government interest, security, libel or slander, public safety, and equal opportunity).

3.4.5 Analyze the various levels and responsibilities of courts in the federal and state judicial system and explain the relationships among them.

6.1 Civic Inquiry and Public Discourse

6.1.1 Identify and research various viewpoints on significant public policy issues.

6.1.3 Develop and use criteria (e.g., logical validity, factual accuracy and/or omission, emotional appeal, credibility, unstated assumptions, logical fallacies, inconsistencies, distortions, and appeals to bias or prejudice, overall strength of argument) in analyzing evidence and position statements.

6.1.4 Address a public issue by suggesting alternative solutions or courses of action, evaluating the consequences of each, and proposing an action to address the issue or resolve the problem.

6.1.5 Make a persuasive, reasoned argument on a public issue and support using evidence (e.g., historical and contemporary examples), constitutional

principles, and fundamental values of American constitutional democracy; explain the stance or position.

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3.4.5 Analyze the various levels and responsibilities of courts in the federal and state judicial system and explain the relationships among them.

5.4.2 Describe the importance of citizens' civic responsibilities including obeying the law.

P2.2 Read and interpret data in tables and graphs.

5.3.4 Describe the relationship between personal, political, and economic rights and how they can sometimes conflict.

5.3.5 Explain considerations and criteria commonly used in determining what limits should be placed on specific rights.

2.2.5 Use examples to investigate why people may agree on constitutional principles and fundamental values in the abstract, yet disagree over their meaning when they are applied to specific situations.

2.2.3 Use past and present policies to analyze conflicts that arise in society due to competing constitutional principles or fundamental values (e.g., liberty and authority, justice and equality, individual rights, and the common good).

5.3.7 Using the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Amendments, describe the rights of the accused; and using case studies and examples, explore the limit and scope of these rights.

5.3.8 Explain and give examples of the role of the Fourteenth Amendment in extending the protection of individual rights against state action.

Mock Criminal Trials -P1 Reading and Communication – read and communicate effectively.

P1.1 Use close and critical reading strategies to read and analyze complex texts pertaining to social science; attend to nuance, make connections to prior knowledge, draw inferences, and determine main idea and supporting details.

P1.2 Analyze point of view, context, and bias to interpret primary and secondary source documents.

P1.3 Understand that diversity of interpretation arises from frame of reference.

P1.4 Communicate clearly and coherently in writing, speaking, and visually expressing ideas pertaining to social science topics, acknowledging audience and purpose.

P1.5 Present a coherent thesis when making an argument, support with evidence, articulate and answer possible objections, and present a concise, clear closing.

P2 Inquiry, Research, and Analysis– critically examine evidence, thoughtfully consider conflicting claims, and carefully weigh facts and hypotheses.

P2.2 Read and interpret data in tables and graphs.

P2.3 Know how to find and organize information from a variety of sources, analyze, interpret, support interpretations with evidence, critically evaluate, and present the information orally and in writing; report investigation results effectively.

P2.4 Use multiple perspectives and resources to identify and analyze issues appropriate to the social studies discipline being studied.

P2.5 Use deductive and inductive problem-solving skills as appropriate to the problem being studied.

P3 Public Discourse and Decision Making – engage in reasoned and informed decision making that should characterize reach citizen’s participation in American society.

P3.2 Deeply examine policy issues in group discussions and debates (clarify issues, consider opposing views, apply democratic values or constitutional principles, anticipate consequences) to make reasoned and informed decisions.

P3.3 Write persuasive/argumentative essays expressing and justifying decision..

Civil Law: Torts (c. 17-21)

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5.3.3 Identify and explain economic rights (e.g., the right to acquire, use, transfer, and dispose of property, choose one’s work and change employment, join labor unions and professional associations, establish and operate a business, copyright protection, enter into lawful contracts, and just compensation for the taking of private property for public use).

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