

**Carrizo Springs C.I.S.D.  
United States Government  
High School, Adopted 2018  
Scope and Sequence, Starting 2019-2020**

**Introduction to the Course:**

(1) In United States Government, the focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. This course is the culmination of the civic and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus of the course is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems. Students identify the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and examine the strategic importance of places to the United States. Students analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a constitutional republic, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Students examine the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States. Students identify examples of government policies that encourage scientific research and use critical-thinking skills to create a product on a contemporary government issue.

(2) To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as the complete text of the U.S. Constitution, selected Federalist Papers, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court (such as those studied in Grade 8 and U.S. History Since 1877), biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, speeches, letters, and periodicals that feature analyses of political issues and events is encouraged.

(3) The eight strands of the essential knowledge and skills for social studies are intended to be integrated for instructional purposes. Skills listed in the social studies skills strand in subsection (c) of this section should be incorporated into the teaching of all essential knowledge and skills for social studies. A greater depth of understanding of complex content material can be attained when integrated social studies content from the various disciplines and critical-thinking skills are taught

together. Statements that contain the word "including" reference content that must be mastered, while those containing the phrase "such as" are intended as possible illustrative examples.

- (4) Students identify the role of the U.S. free enterprise system within the parameters of this course and understand that this system may also be referenced as capitalism or the free market system.
- (5) Throughout social studies in Kindergarten-Grade 12, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation as referenced in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(h).
- (6) Students understand that a constitutional republic is a representative form of government whose representatives derive their authority from the consent of the governed, serve for an established tenure, and are sworn to uphold the constitution.
- (7) State and federal laws mandate a variety of celebrations and observances, including Celebrate Freedom Week.
  - (A) Each social studies class shall include, during Celebrate Freedom Week as provided under the TEC, §29.907, or during another full school week as determined by the board of trustees of a school district, appropriate instruction concerning the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, in their historical contexts. The study of the Declaration of Independence must include the study of the relationship of the ideas expressed in that document to subsequent American history, including the relationship of its ideas to the rich diversity of our people as a nation of immigrants, the American Revolution, the formulation of the U.S. Constitution, and the abolitionist movement, which led to the Emancipation Proclamation and the women's suffrage movement.
  - (B) Each school district shall require that, during Celebrate Freedom Week or other week of instruction prescribed under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, students in Grades 3-12 study and recite the following text from the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."
- (8) Students discuss how and whether the actions of U.S. citizens and the local, state, and federal governments have achieved the ideals espoused in the founding documents.

The following plan has been created from the TCMPC TEKS Resource System, as adopted by the State of Texas for use in the High School setting. Though each unit has a suggested number of days for the subject, the teacher is still permitted to monitor and adjust the lessons.

## First Semester: U.S. Government – Mr. Byars, Instructor [Fall 2019-2020]

### 1st Six Weeks

#### **Unit 01: Political Philosophy: Governments Are Instituted Among Men (7 days for the entire unit)**

**G.1A, G.1B, G.1C, G.1D, G.1E, G.1F, G.6C, G.19A, G.19D, G.20A, G.20B**

The values of a society are reflected in its culture and institutions.

- How does a society preserve and perpetuate its values?

Philosophical ideas about the nature of government have developed over time.

- What major political philosophies have developed throughout history?
- Which political philosophies and political philosophers had the greatest impact on the formation of government in the United States?
- What significant political ideas have been contributed by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan?

The U.S. Constitution was created through a process of debates and compromises.

- What arguments divided the Federalists and Anti-federalists?
- How did the debates between Federalists and Anti-Federalists affect the creation of the U.S. Constitution?
- What issues of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 were resolved by compromises?
- How did the compromises reached at the convention affect the creation of the U.S. government?

#### **Unit 02: The U.S. Constitution: The Blessings of Liberty (15 days for the entire unit)**

**G.6A, G.6D, G.6E, G.6F, G.12A, G.12B, G.12C, G.12D, G.12E, G.12F, G.19A, G.20A, G.20B**

Democratic societies strive to guarantee the rights and freedoms of the individual.

- How are the rights and freedoms of individuals protected in a democratic society?

The U.S. Constitution reflects the principles of limited government.

- Which provisions of the U.S. Constitution reflect the principles of limited government including republicanism, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights?
- How can the U.S. Constitution be amended?

- How are the principles of limited government reflected in the national identity of Americans?

Individual rights of American citizens are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

- Why is having a written constitution important?
- What are unalienable rights?
- What individual freedoms are guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights?
- How does limiting government promote the protection of individual rights?
- Why did the Founding Fathers believe it was important to protect religious freedom?

Through the use of due process the federal court system ensures that the rights of Americans are protected and that government is limited.

- How have rulings by the U.S. Supreme court clarified and protected the rights of Americans?
- How did due process come about as a legal principle in the United States and why is it an important legal principle in the United States?

## 2nd Six Weeks

### **Unit 03: A Federalist System: A More Perfect Union (15 days for the entire unit)**

G.6B, G.7E, G.7G, G.7H, G.8A, G.8B, G.8C, G.8D, G.11A, G.11B, G.19A, G.19B, G.20A, G.20B

Societies utilize institutions to promote order, security, and stability.

- How do societies act to ensure the well-being of their people?

The Founding Fathers created a unique federalist system in which power is shared between federal, state, and local governmental bodies.

- Why did the Founding Fathers create a federalist system of government?
- How does the federal government ensure the purposes set out in the Preamble?
- What powers are divided between the federal, state, and local governments?
- What powers are shared between the federal, state, and local governments?
- What historical conflicts have arisen in the United States because of federalism?
- What are the major responsibilities of the United States federal government?

The U.S. federalist system differs from other centralized governmental systems.

- What is similar and different about the federalist system of the United States in comparison to other types of governments?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of federalist, confederate, unitary, presidential and parliamentary governmental systems?

### **Unit 06: The Political Process: We the People (10 days for the entire unit)**

G.2A, G.2B, G.3A, G.3B, G.3C, G.9A, G.10A, G.10B, G.13A, G.13B, G.13C, G.14A, G.14B, G.14C, G.15A, G.15B, G.18A, G.18B, G.19A, G.19B, G.20A, G.20B

Civically engaged citizens take informed action to improve the quality of life in the community.

- What are the ways to effectively bring about change?

Political parties the United States provide a venue for citizens to initiate change, express a point of view, and transform public policy.

- What is characteristic of the political parties in the United States?
- What role do political parties play in elections?
- How have third parties affected the political process in the United States?
- How do citizens become involved in political parties?

The political process is influenced by political parties, individuals, interest groups and the media in a variety of ways and using a variety of methods.

- What are all the ways an individual can become involved in the political process?
- In what ways do interest groups and the media affect the political process?
- What methods are used by individuals and groups to influence the political process?
- In what ways have technological advances affected the political process?

Geographic political divisions are intended to fairly distribute power in the political process.

- Why and how are political districts created?
- What is characteristic of the distribution of political power in the United States?

Citizens in a democracy are expected to be civically engaged in the political process.

- What rights, responsibilities, obligations and duties do American citizens have in the political process?
- What criteria are in place in Texas for citizens to be able to vote?
- How do you register to vote?

3rd Six Weeks

**Unit 04: The Branches of Government: Of the People, By the People, For the People (15 days for the entire unit)**

G.1F, G.7A, G.7B, G.7C, G.9B, G.9C, G.19A, G.20A, G.20B

Humans strive for power.

- How do people seek to gain and maintain power?

Article I of the U.S. Constitution establishes a bicameral legislative branch in the United States responsible for enacting laws.

- How are representatives in the U.S. Congress chosen?

- How are the two houses of Congress structured?
- How does a bill become a law?
- What role do committees play in the passage of legislation?
- What role does the Vice President have in the legislative branch?

Article II of the U.S. Constitution outlines the powers of the President as head of the executive branch and details the process for the election of the President.

- What powers are given to the President?
- What role does the Vice President have in the executive branch?
- How is the President elected?

The administrative bureaucracy of the executive branch is made up of specialized departments and agencies.

- How does the executive branch execute laws?
- What independent departments and agencies are part of the executive branch?
- What functions do independent agencies in the executive branch serve?

Article III of the U.S. Constitution establishes a federal court system in the United States, which has come to include the U.S. Supreme Court, federal trial courts, and specialized courts with various jurisdictions.

- How is the federal court system structured?
- How are federal judges chosen?
- What jurisdictions do the various federal courts have?
- What role does the judicial branch play in the U.S. federalist system?

**Unit 05: Governmental Policies: Establishing Justice and Promoting the General Welfare (10 days for the entire unit)**

G.4A, G.4B, G.4C, G.5A, G.5B, G.7F, G.16A, G.16B, G.17A, G.17B, G.19A, G.19B, G.19C, G.20A, G.20B

Societies utilize institutions to promote order, security, and stability.

- How do societies act to ensure the well-being of their people?

While the role of the government in a free enterprise system is limited, governmental policies in the United States related to taxation, regulation, monetary policy, and fiscal policy affect the economy.

- What are the major sources of revenue for the United States?
- What are the major expenditures of the U.S. government?
- How is the economy affected by fiscal and monetary policies?
- How is the economy impacted by regulatory policies?
- How is the federal budget created?
- How has the U.S. patent system foster economic growth?

- In what ways does governmental assisted research impact the economy in the United States?

U.S. foreign policy is primarily focused on economic and military relationships with other regions.

- What regions of the world are important global locations for the United States?
- How does U.S. foreign policy affect other regions?
- What economic policies does the United States use in its foreign policy?
- What is characteristic of international trade policies in the United States?

Governmental legislation, policies, and court decisions have facilitated cultural changes in the United States.

- What government policies have been responsible for large cultural changes in the United States?
- In what ways have major court decisions brought about cultural changes in the United States?
- How does judicial activism and judicial restraint relate to cultural changes in the United States?