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# Detailed Course Syllabus

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## ***Unit I -- Class organization, the Habits of Mind, Intro to the basic principles of the Constitution.***

### **Essential Question**

How is the class organized what are the fundamental ideas and class requirements?

### **Time- Week 1**

- 1 Restate the teacher's rules, requirements and class organization.
- 2 List the basic principles of the United States Constitution.
- 3 Identify the basic principles of the Constitution from a source.
- 4 List the "habits of mind."
- 5 Apply the habits of mind in writing and speaking.

## ***Unit II -- Fundamental Principles and History of American Government***

### **Essential Question**

How do the principles of American constitutional government reflect a protection of individual liberty?

### **Goal**

The student will identify and describe the basic principles of American Government.

### **Time - Week 2**

- 1 Power
- 2 Authority
- 3 Legitimacy
- 4 Constitutional Operational Principles
  - A. Liberty
  - B. justice
  - C. equality
  - D. republicanism
  - E. federalism
  - F. separation of powers
  - G. checks and balances
  - H. judicial review
  - I. rule of law
  - J. popular sovereignty
- 5 Liberty and Security Position Paper

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### ***Unit III -- The Political Spectrum***

#### **Essential Question**

How are ideas about the role of government and the economy structured and classified and applied in current events?

#### **Time - Weeks 3 and 4**

- 1 The Political Spectrum
- 2 The Political Quadrant
  - A What is the source of political ideology?
  - B The process of political socialization
- 3 The Constitution and political parties
- 4 Public Policy
- 5 U.S. Political Parties – Qualities on the quadrant
- 6 Political Socialization Essay

### ***Unit IV -- The Constitution***

#### **Essential Question**

How did the Constitutional convention of 1787 and the Federalist apply the fundamental operational principles of the Constitution?

#### **Time - Weeks 5 and 6**

- 1 The colonial experience in self-government
- 2 The Revolution
- 3 The Articles of Confederation
- 4 The Constitutional Convention
- 5 The Federalist Papers
- 6 Ratification
- 7 Federalist or Anti-Federalist positions on current issues – Debate or Essay

### ***Unit V -- U.S. Congress***

#### **Essential Question**

How does the public-policy making function of the legislative branch reflect the republican process and the rule of law?

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### **Time - Weeks 7, 8 and 9**

- 1 The National Legislature
- 2 A The House of Representatives  
B. he Senate  
C Members of Congress
- 3 Powers of Congress  
A Article I Section 8  
B The Necessary and Proper Clause and General Welfare Clause  
C Impeachment, advise and consent, constitutional amendments, Congress' investigatory powers
- 4 Organization of the Congress  
A Presiding officers of the Senate and the House  
B Political party officers  
C Committee chairs
- 5 Bill to law in the Congress - Simulation  
A The process of parliamentary procedure  
B Writing bills form current events  
C Election of the presiding officers  
D Bill introduction and assignment to committee  
E Committee work  
F Floor debate
- 6 Presidential action
- 7 Legislative Simulation
- 8 Position Paper on an issue before Congress

### ***Unit VI - The U.S. President***

#### **Essential Question**

How is the president elected and what are her responsibilities in constitutional structure?

#### **Time- Weeks 10, 11, 12**

- 1 Election of the president
- 2 Watergate
- 3 Presidential history
- 4 Public Policy – Implementing laws into action
- 5 Powers of the president
- 6 Roles of the president and current events
- 7 News review of presidential power

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### ***Unit VII -- Liberty***

#### **Essential Question**

How is liberty protected by the Constitution?

#### **Time – Week 13, 14, 15**

1. Liberty defined
  - a. Unalienable rights
2. 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the “Second Bill of Rights”
3. Rights protected in Article I section 8
  - a. No ex post facto
  - b. Habeas corpus
  - c. Bills of attainder
4. First Amendment
  - a. Free Exercise Clause
  - b. Establishment Clause
  - c. Free Press
  - d. Free Speech
  - e. Right to Assemble
5. Second Amendment – Right to bear arms
6. Fourth Amendment - Searches
7. Fifth and Sixth Amendments – Due Process
8. The Ninth Amendment and the right to privacy
9. Flag Burning, Death Penalty or Border Searches Position Paper

### ***Unit VIII -- U.S. Judicial***

#### **Essential Question**

What role does the judicial branch play in the application of constitutional principles and the protection of individual rights?

#### **Outline**

1. Structure of the United States court system
2. Federalism and the court system
3. Judicial review
4. Types of law and punishment
5. Powers of the U.S. Courts
6. The Supreme Court
7. Mock Trial