

Milford Public Schools Curriculum



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Department: Social Studies
CIVICS AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
Grade 10,11,12
Levels: 2-602210, 3-603210

Civics will provide a comprehensive background for the understanding of United States citizenship and the foundations and operation of American government. Students will apply this understanding to current event topics relevant to our nation and election issues. This course will emphasize civic participation by the students. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation.

UNIT 1	
Unit Title: Foundations of American Government	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): People form governments to establish order, provide security and accomplish common goals.	Essential Question(s): What are the purposes and functions of government? What are the various types of government? What are the roots of the American system of government? What are the basic principles of American government?
Content and Skills: Principles of American Government Origins of American Government The US Constitution	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	

UNIT 2	
Unit Title: Political Behavior	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): Being an informed, participatory citizen is important in a democratic society.	Essential Question(s): How can American citizens participate in the American political process? What role do political parties play in the American political process? What role do campaigns play in the electoral

	process? How do political parties, the media, and special interest groups influence the way Americans vote?
Content and Skills: Political parties Voting and Elections Influencing Government	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	

UNIT 3	
Unit Title: Legislative Branch	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): Congress's bicameral legislature is set up to ensure every bill is thoroughly considered.	Essential Question(s): How is Congress organized? What are the differences between the House and the Senate? How do members of Congress represent their constituents? How does a bill become a law?
Content and Skills: How Congress is Organized Powers of Congress How a Bill Becomes a Law	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	

UNIT 4	
Unit Title: Executive Branch	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): The powers of the President have grown over time as the nation's social and economic life has become more	Essential Question(s): What makes a good president? How much power should a president have?

complex.	What role does the federal bureaucracy play in policy making?
Content and Skills: The Presidency Presidential Leadership Federal Bureaucracy	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	

UNIT 5	
Unit Title: Judicial Branch	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): The power of judicial review has strengthened the Federal Court System. The Supreme Court's purpose is to ensure that the Constitution remains the cornerstone of American Democracy.	Essential Question(s): How are checks and balances/separation of powers demonstrated by the judicial branch? How does the Supreme Court influence/affect public policy?
Content and Skills: The Federal Courts How Federal Courts are Organized The Supreme Court The Supreme Court at Work	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	

UNIT 6	
Unit Title: State and Local Government	
LEARNING GOALS	
Enduring Understanding(s): State and local government most directly impact the daily lives of citizens.	Essential Question(s): What is the function of local government? What are the parallels between state governments and

In our federal system, power is shared between the national government and the state governments.	the federal governments?
Content and Skills: State Constitutions Governor and State Administration Financing State and Local Government	
Standards Addressed: National Council for Social Studies Curriculum Standards: VI: a,b,c,d,e,f,h X: a	