

American Government

State Goals	Learning Standards	Benchmarks	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
14 Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.	14.A Understand and explain basic principles of the United States government.	14.A.4 Analyze how local, state and national governments serve the purposes for which they were created.	Covered throughout the course	Covered throughout the course
	14.B Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.	14.B.4 Compare the political systems of the United States to other nations.	Introduction	Forms of government
	14.C Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.	14.C.4 Describe the meaning of participatory citizenship (e.g., volunteerism, voting) at all levels of government and society in the United States.	Political Participation	Political Parties
				Nominations and Campaigns
				Elections
	14.D Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.	14.D.4 Analyze roles and influences of individuals, groups and media in shaping current debates on state and national policies.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation
				Political Parties
				Nominations and Campaigns
	14.E Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues.	14.E.4 Analyze historical trends of United States foreign policy (e.g., emergence as a world leader - military, industrial, financial).		Elections
				Individual Political Participation
14.F Understand the development of United States political ideas	14.F.4a Determine the historical events and processes that brought about changes in United States political ideas and traditions (e.g., the New Deal, Civil War).		Political Parties	
			Individual Political Participation	
			Constitutional Origins	The American Revolution
			The Judicial Branch and	Civil Rights

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	and traditions.		Civil Right and Liberties	Civil Rights
		14.F.4b Describe how United States' political ideas, practices and technologies have extended rights for Americans in the 20th century (e.g., suffrage, civil rights, motor-voter registration).	The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Liberties	Civil Liberties
14 Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.	14.A Understand and explain basic principles of the United States government.	14.A.5 Analyze ways in which federalism protects individual rights and promotes the common good and how at times has made it possible for states to protect and deny rights for certain groups.	Constitutional Principles	Civil Rights
	14.B Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.	14.B.5 Analyze similarities and differences among world political systems (e.g., democracy, socialism, communism).	Introduction	Civil Liberties
	14.C Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens.	14.C.5 Analyze the consequences of participation and non-participation in the electoral process (e.g., women's suffrage, voter registration, effects of media).	Political Participation	Federalism
				Forms of government
				Political Parties
		The Judicial Branch and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	Nominations and Campaigns	
			Elections	
			Individual Political Participation	
			Civil Liberties	
	14.D Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations.	14.D.5 Interpret a variety of public policies and issues from the perspectives of different individuals and groups.	Political Participation	Individual Political Participation



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	14.E Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues.	14.E.5 Analyze relationships and tensions among members of the international community.		
	14.F Understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions.	14.F.5 Interpret how changing geographical, economic, technological and social forces affect United States political ideas and traditions (e.g., freedom, equality and justice, individual rights).	Covered throughout the course	Covered throughout the course