

American Government

State Standard Number	State Standard Area/Description	Unit Name	Course Topic Description
VII	Government and Citizenship		
VII.A	Civic Values, Skills, Rights and Responsibilities		
VII.A.1	The student will understand the scope and limits of rights, the relationship among them, and how they are secured.		
VII.A.1.1	Students will analyze the meaning and importance of rights in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments, and in the Minnesota Constitution.		
VII.A.1.2	Students will describe the expansion of protection of individual rights through legislative action and court interpretation.	Unit 4: Legislative	Section 2: Powers of Congress Section 2: Discussion: Powers of Congress
VII.A.1.3	Students will understand equal protection and due process and analyze landmark Supreme Court Cases' use of the 14th Amendment to apply the Bill of Rights to the states.	Unit 4: Legislative Unit 6: Judicial	Section 2: Powers of Congress Section 3: Supreme Court History Section 4: Civil Liberties
VII.A.2	The student will know how citizenship is defined, established, and exercised and how it has changed over time.		
VII.A.2.1	Students will define citizenship and describe the processes by which individuals become United States citizens.		

American Government

VII.A.2.2	Students will compare the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens with the rights and responsibilities of non-citizens in the United States and describe changes in citizenship since 1870.	Unit 7: Participation	Section 4: Individual Participation
VII.A.3	The student will analyze various methods of civic engagement needed to fulfill responsibilities of a citizen of a republic.		
VII.A.3.1	Students will demonstrate the ability to use the print and electronic media to do research and analyze data.	There are various research projects throughout the course. For example: Unit 5: Executive	Section 4: Assignment: Presentation on a Department
VII.A.3.2	Students will compare, contrast, and evaluate various forms of political persuasion for validity, accuracy, ideology, emotional appeals, bias and prejudice.	Unit 7: Participation	Sections 1 - 4
VII.A.3.3	Students will know and analyze the points of access and influence people can use to affect elections and public policy decisions.	Unit 7: Participation	Sections 1 - 4
VII.A.3.4	Students will understand the importance of informed decision making and the roles of public speaking, conducting a public meeting, letter writing, petition signing, negotiation, active listening, conflict resolution, and mediation, defending a public policy position in a civil conversation.	Unit 7: Participation	Sections 1 - 4
VII.B	Beliefs and Principles of United States Democracy		

American Government

VII.B.1	The student will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles upon which the U.S. government is based.		
VII.B.1.1	Students will define and provide examples of fundamental principles and core values of American political and civic life.	Unit 3: Principles	Sections 1 – 4 Discussions throughout the various sections as well
VII.B.1.2	Students will evaluate how the Constitution both preserves fundamental societal values and responds to changing circumstances and beliefs.	Unit 3: Principles Unit 4: Legislative	Section 2: Discussion: Federalism Section 1: Structure Section 1: Discussion: Gerrymandering
VII.B.1.3	Students will evaluate how well the federal and state governments protect individual rights and promote the general welfare.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 2: Federalism Section 2: Discussion: Federalism
VII.B.1.4	Students will compare the philosophy, structure, and operations of governments of other countries with the U.S. government.	Unit 1: Introduction	Section 1: Forms of Government Section 1: Discussion: Types of Government compared to democracy
VII.B.2	The student will know sources of power and authority of United States government.		
VII.B.2.1	Students will analyze the sources of authority and explain popular sovereignty, or consent of the governed, as the source of legitimate authority of government in a representative democracy or republic.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 2: Principles of the Constitution
VII.B.2.2	Students will describe the provisions of the U.S. Constitution, which delegate to the federal government the powers necessary to fulfill the purposes for which it was established.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 1: Structure of the Constitution Section 2: Principles of the Constitution Section 3: Federalism

American Government

VII.B.2.3	Students will distinguish between the powers granted to the government and those retained by the people.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 3: Federalism
VII.B.2.4	Students will explain how a constitutional democracy provides majority rule with equal protection for the rights of the minority through limited government and the rule of law.	Unit 3: Principles Unit 4: Judicial	Section 2: Principles of the Constitution Section 4: Civil Liberties Section 5: Civil Rights
VII.B.3	The student will understand tensions that exist between key principles of government in the United States.		
VII.B.3.1	Students will explain the current and historical interpretations of the principle of equal protection of the law.	Unit 4: Judicial	Section 4: Civil Liberties Section 5: Civil Rights
VII.B.3.2	Students will examine the tension between the government's dual role of protecting individual rights and promoting the general welfare, the tension between majority rule and minority rights, and analyze the conflict between diversity and unity which is captured in the concept "E Pluribus Unum."	Unit 3: Principles Unit 4: Judicial	Section 2: Principles of the Constitution Section 4: Civil Liberties Section 5: Civil Rights
VII.B.3.3	Students will describe the principles embedded in the Preamble to the Constitution and evaluate the progress of the United States in realizing those goals.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 1: Structure of the Constitution Section 2: Principles of the Constitution
VII.B.3.4	Students will analyze the role of civil disobedience in the United States.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 1: Political Foundations of American Democracy
VII.C	Roots of the Republic		

American Government

VII.C.1	The student will understand the forces that impacted the founding of the United States		
VII.C.1.1	Students will describe the transplanting of English political and legal institutions to the colonies; explain how political and legal rights were defined and practiced; and analyze the development of representative government.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 1: Political Foundations of American Democracy
VII.C.1.2	Students will recognize and analyze the impact of early documents on the development of the government of the United States.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 1: Political Foundations of American Democracy Section 2: Colonial Government
VII.C.1.3	Students will explain how key principles of the United States government were modeled after other political philosophies.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 1: Political Foundations of American Democracy Section 2: Colonial Government
VII.C.1.4	Students will describe revolutionary government structure and operations at national and state levels, and evaluate the major achievements and problems of the Confederation period.	Unit 2: Origins	Sections 1 - 4
VII.C.2	The student will demonstrate knowledge of the continuing impact of the Declaration of Independence in the U.S. and worldwide.		
VII.C.2.1	Students will analyze principles in the Declaration of Independence, including selfevident truths and inalienable rights, and its impact on the development of the United States government.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 3: The American Revolution
VII.C.2.2	Students will make comparisons of the Declaration of Independence to other documents that used it as a source of reference and inspiration.		

American Government

VII.C.3	The student will understand the process of creating the U.S. Constitution.		
VII.C.3.1	Students will describe and analyze the debates over the Articles of Confederation and the process and content of the Constitutional Convention, which led to the creation of the U.S. Constitution.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 4: Establishing the First Government
VII.C.3.2	Students will analyze the debate over ratification of the Constitution.	Unit 2: Origins	Section 5: Creating the Constitution
VII.C.4	The student will know how Constitutional Amendments and Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution have increased the impact of the Constitution on people's lives.		
VII.C.4.1	Students will describe the development and ratification of the Bill of Rights.	Unit 2: Principles	Section 4: Changing the Constitution
VII.C.4.2	Students will describe the events leading to later amendments.	Unit 2: Principles	Section 4: Changing the Constitution
VII.C.4.3	Students will describe the development of the Supreme Court's function in interpreting the Constitution.	Unit 6: Judicial	Section 3: Supreme Court History
VII.D	Governmental Processes and Institutions		

American Government

VII.D.1	The student will know how the U.S. Constitution seeks to prevent the abuse of power.		
VII.D.1.1	Students will describe the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances and analyze how they limit the powers of state and federal governments.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 2: Principles of the Constitution Section 2: Discussion: Examples of checks and Balances
VII.D.1.2	Students will define federalism and describe how power is distributed between the federal government and state governments, or retained by the people of the United States.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 2: Principles of the Constitution Section 3: Federalism
VII.D.1.3	Students will explain the process of amending the U.S. Constitution.	Unit 3: Principles	Section 4: Changing the Constitution
VII.D.2	The student will understand how public policy is made, enforced, and interpreted by the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.		
VII.D.2.1	Students will explain the powers and operations of the legislative branch as defined in Article I of the Constitution and describe and evaluate the procedures involved in passing laws.	Unit 4: Legislative	Sections 1 - 4
VII.D.2.2	Students will explain the powers and operations of the executive branch as defined in Article II of the Constitution and describe the roles and responsibilities of the president.	Unit 5: Executive	Sections 1 – 4
VII.D.2.3	Students will explain the powers and operations of the judicial branch as defined in Article III of the Constitution and describe and evaluate the process used by the Supreme Court in choosing to hear, analyze, and decide a case.	Unit 6: Judicial	Sections 1 - 4

American Government

VII.D.2.4	Students will apply knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of the branches of the federal government to analyze historic and current public policy issues.	Unit 4: Legislative Unit 3: Principles	Section 2: Discussion: Powers of Congress Section 3: Omission of women's right to vote
VII.D.3	The student will understand the sovereign status of American Indian Nations.		
VII.D.3.1	Students will explain and analyze the unique relationship between American Indian Nations and the United States Government.		
VII.D.4	The student will understand the role and influence of political processes and organizations.		
VII.D.4.1	Students will describe the procedures involved in the Minnesota and national voting, and election process, including the Minnesota caucus system.		
VII.D.4.2	Students will examine the impact of American political parties and on elections and public policy.	Unit 6: Participation	Section 1: Discussion: Political Parties
VII.D.4.3	Students will examine the role of interest groups, think tanks, the media, and public opinion on the political process and public policy formation.	Unit 6: Participation	Section 1: Parties Section 2: Nominations and Campaigns Section 3: Elections Section 4: Individual Political Participation
VII.D.5	The student will analyze the relationships and interactions between the United States and other nations and evaluate the role of the U.S. in world affairs.		

American Government

VII.D.5.1	Students will describe how the world is aligned politically and give examples of the ways nation states interact.	Unit 8: Economics	Section 3: Discussion: Outsourcing
VII.D.5.2	Students will compare and contrast the structure and organization of various forms of political systems, including the U.S. government.	Unit 1: Introduction	Section 1: Forms of Government Section 1: Discussion: Types of Government compared to democracy
VII.D.5.3	Students will describe how governments interact in world affairs and explain reasons for conflict among nation states.	Unit 8: Economics	Section 3: Discussion: Outsourcing
VII.D.5.4	Students will describe the ways the U.S. government develops and carries out U.S. foreign policy and analyze how individuals, businesses, labor, and other groups influence U.S. foreign policy.	Unit 8: Economics	Section 3: Discussion: Outsourcing
VII.D.5.5	Students will explain and evaluate international organizations and international law and how participation in these organizations and international law is voluntary.	Unit 8: Economics	Section 3: Discussion: Outsourcing
VII.D.5.6	Students will explain the effects of developments in other nations on state and community life in Minnesota, and explain the role of individuals in world affairs.	Unit 8: Economics	Section 3: Discussion: Outsourcing
VII.D.6	The student will understand Minnesota state and local government structure and political processes.		
VII.D.6.1	Students will examine the structure and process of Minnesota Government as created by the Minnesota Constitution.		

American Government

VII.D.6.2	Students will compare the Minnesota Constitution with the U.S. Constitution.		
VII.D.6.3	Students will describe powers, features, and procedures of local government in Minnesota.		