



# PLANNED COURSE STATEMENT

<b>Course Title:</b> Civics and Government A	<b>Grade Level(s)</b> 12
<b>Length of Course:</b> 1 Semester	<b>Credit Area:</b> Social Studies
<b>Prerequisite:</b> None	<b>Amount of Credit:</b> .5
<b>Adopted/Supplemental Materials:</b> N/A	
<b>Dual Credit Articulation:</b> N/A	

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This Civics and Government course provides high school seniors with a comprehensive understanding of the principles, structures, and functions of government at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels. Aligned with the Oregon State Standards for Civics (HS.C), this course emphasizes the development of civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for informed and engaged participation in our democratic society.

Students will explore foundational documents, the Constitution, and landmark Supreme Court cases to understand the evolution of government and its role in protecting individual rights and promoting the common good. They will analyze contemporary issues, evaluate wide ranging perspectives, and assess the impact of government policies on communities, including Oregon's tribal nations.

Key topics include:

- The structure and functions of government institutions.
- The role of political parties, interest groups, and the media.
- The rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- The influence of public policy on social, economic, and environmental issues.
- Strategies for civic engagement and advocacy.

Through project-based learning, debates, and collaborative research, students will strengthen critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to participate actively in civic life and make informed decisions that contribute to the well-being of their communities.

## COURSE GOALS:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand the structure and functions of government at local, state, tribal, and federal levels.
- Analyze key historical documents, such as the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Supreme

- Court decisions.
- Evaluate the roles of political parties, interest groups, and the media in shaping public opinion and policy.
- Explore the impact of government policies on social, economic, and environmental issues, including those affecting Oregon's tribal nations.
- Develop skills for civic engagement, including advocacy, public speaking, and effective communication.
- Demonstrate knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as informed citizens.
- Critically assess current events and their implications for governance and society.

## **COURSE COMPONENTS:**

- **Foundational Knowledge:** Study of historical documents, legal principles, and government structures.
- **Current Events Analysis:** Discussion and research on contemporary issues and their connections to civics concepts.
- **Civic Engagement Projects:** Opportunities to engage with local government, attend public meetings, or collaborate with community organizations.
- **Simulations and Debates:** Mock trials, legislative simulations, and structured debates to apply knowledge in real-world scenarios.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Group research projects and peer-led discussions.
- **Focus on Oregon:** Exploration of Oregon's government, policies, and tribal nations' governance.

## **ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:**

### **Formative Assessments:**

- In-class discussions and reflections.
- Quizzes on foundational knowledge (e.g., Constitution, government branches).
- Exit tickets and journals to monitor understanding of key concepts.

### **Summative Assessments:**

- Research papers on civic topics (e.g., policy analysis, government roles).
- Group projects or presentations on local or state civic issues.
- Participation in simulations, such as mock trials or legislative sessions.

### **Performance-Based Assessments:**

- Civic engagement project: Developing and presenting a plan for community advocacy.
- Public speaking: Delivering arguments in debates or presenting findings from research.

### **Portfolio Assessments:**

- Compilation of assignments, projects, and reflections demonstrating growth in civic understanding and skills.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS:**

- Scaffolding and chunking of learning materials
- Possible shortened assignments and/or reading sections

## **CAREER RELATED LEARNING STANDARDS:**

- Employability Skills Rubric: Evaluate essential skills like communication, teamwork, and professionalism.