

COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

American Government High School One Semester Intermediate Level

1. Subject Expectation (State Goal 14) **The student will understand, analyze, and compare political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.**

Essential Learning 1 (Learning Standard A)	Understand and explain basic principles of the United States government
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Critical Content	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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• trace the origins of United States political traditions and the democratic process• organize fundamental concepts of separation of powers, and checks and balances• understand the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy• recognize and explain the meaning for and purpose of the Declaration of Independence• differentiate and distinguish the difference between government, politics, public policy, and political systems• define the impact of key principles of the Constitution and understand their impact upon the American public and political system
	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• appraise the impact of federalism on the American political system• recognize contemporary controversies regarding the principle of federalism and states' rights• summarize the protective impact of the Bill of Rights upon American citizens• debate several relevant civil liberties issues in today's society
	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• summarize significant U.S. Supreme Court Decisions that address equal protection and due process issues

Essential Learning 2 (Learning Standard B)	Understand the structures and functions of the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations
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Critical Content	14.B.5	Analyze similarities and differences among world political systems (e.g., democracy, socialism, communism)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• differentiate between the American political system and others throughout the world

- * - compare and contrast the constitutional democracy of the U.S. with those of similar governments (e.g., United Kingdom, Japan, Australia)
- * - differentiate between the American election process and other nations' election processes
- defend the strengths and weaknesses of the American electoral system
- differentiate among the structure and jurisdictions of the various levels of the U.S. federal court system
- outline the differences between the federal court and Illinois court systems
- identify the structure and organization of the legislative branch
- * - evaluate the impact of the structure and organization of the legislative branch upon American politics
- outline the responsibilities of congressional members
- appraise the relationship between Congress and the other branches of government
- diagram the extensive law-making process
- identify the Constitutional provisions regarding the presidency in the Executive Branch
- examine the expansion of presidential power in the Executive Branch
- role play the process behind electing the President
- * - critique the strengths and weaknesses of the Electoral College
- * - recommend proposals to solve weaknesses in the presidential electoral system
- analyze the similarities and differences between the structure and functions of the state (Illinois) and federal governments

**Essential Learning 3
(Learning Standard C)**

Understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens

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| Critical Content | 14.C.5 | <p>Analyze the consequences of participation and non-participation in the electoral process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • categorize the inherent challenges to operating a successful democratic government • summarize and interpret the importance and impact of political parties on our political system • recognize the various steps in the electoral process • identify why citizens do and do not vote in American elections, both past and present and evaluate the impact of those decisions • participate in the democratic responsibilities afforded an American citizen • understand the diversity of political views and rights • explain the need for the voter registration process • analyze the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the Electoral College system for the election of the President of the United States • predict how technology will impact our present electoral process(e.g., voting over the Internet to increase voter |
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participation)

- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the election process within a specific level of government and suggest changes that will improve that system
- utilize the DuPage County voter registration process

**Essential Learning 4
(Learning Standard D)**

Understand the roles and influences of individuals and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States and other nations

Critical Content 14.D.5

Interpret a variety of public policies and issues from the perspectives of different individuals and groups

- correlate current events to existing world governmental systems and ideologies
- identify influential people in the political process of the United States
- compile the essential steps in our electoral process from primaries through the electoral college
- assess the purpose and impact of political parties in our political system
- assess the role of interest groups and the impact they have in a democratic society
 - law-making process, court cases and decisions, execution of federal laws
- * • critique the shaping of public policy by American presidents
- * • examine what people and offices influence a President's decision making
- * • appraise the role of interest groups and the impact they have on the Illinois government
- * • generalize the impact of changing technology (e.g., the Internet) on civic activities and the understanding of public policy issues
- * • identify and explain the impact of a third party candidate issue that had the effect of reforming an existing major political party
- * • examine how past and present American political parties have gained or lost influence on political decision-making and voting behavior

**Essential Learning 5
(Learning Standard E)**

Understand United States foreign policy as it relates to other nations and international issues

Critical Content 14.E.5

Analyze relationships and tensions among members of the international community

- understand the specific roles of Congress, the President, and the people in the functions of U.S. foreign policy
 - * - trace American foreign policy throughout our history including key events, individuals, and results
 - * - compare American foreign policy traditions to those of other nations
 - summarize and illustrate the role of the President

in American foreign policy

- determine the cost/benefit analysis of U.S. government actions in maintaining relations with international organizations (e.g., the United Nations, NATO) and countries

Essential Learning 6 (Learning Standard F)	Understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions.
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Critical Content	14.F.5	Interpret how changing geographical, economic, technological, and social forces affect United States political ideas and traditions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• categorize the social forces that influence our own individual beliefs• extrapolate the growth of natural rights, beginning with the Declaration of Independence• assess the changing role of political parties and their contribution to American politics• formulate how changing social and political forces have impacted the expansion of suffrage*<ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyze the historical evolution of a political tradition and how it was transformed by varying geographical, economic, technological, and social forces (e.g., political caucus, voting patterns for political parties within different regions of the U.S.)*<ul style="list-style-type: none">• specify the advantages and disadvantages of the establishment of a free press

2. Subject Expectation (State Goal 16) **The student will understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States and other nations.**

Essential Learning 1 (Learning Standard B)	Understand the development of significant political events
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Critical Content (US)	16.B.5a	Describe how modern political positions are affected by differences in ideologies and viewpoints that have developed over time
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• survey the structure and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation• discriminate between the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and the creation of the Constitution• identify the key compromises made during the Constitutional Convention<ul style="list-style-type: none">- compare and contrast the theories and beliefs of various world political philosophers and their impact upon the formation of our political system- Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau

- deduce how changing political ideologies have impacted American politics
 - * • recognize the impact that interest groups have on political parties and public policy in American politics
 - compare the responsibilities of today's President with those of the past because of changing societal ideologies and viewpoints
 - summarize the impact that changing societal ideologies have had on the Presidential election system
 - * • trace the process of electing the President throughout history
- 16.B.5b (US) Analyze how United States political history has been influenced by the nation's economic, social, and environmental history
- explain and illustrate how American public policy is impacted by our economic system
 - describe the evolution of the American Constitution and its impact upon the American population
 - evaluate the impact of the nation's economic, social, and environmental history upon the American Constitution
 - analyze how suffrage and voter behavior has been changed by the nation's economic, social, and environmental history
 - summarize today's interpretations of the Constitution from past perspectives
 - Examples:
 - Plessy v. Ferguson -- Brown v. Board
 - Furman v. Georgia -- Gregg v. Georgia
 - Engle v. Vitale -- Sante Fe Independent School District v. Doe
- 16.B.5b (W) Analyze the relationship of an issue in world political history to the related aspects of world economic, social and environmental history
- compare and evaluate the different political systems of the world
 - monarchy vs. republic
 - unitary vs. federal vs. confederacy
 - parliamentary vs. presidential
 - democracy vs. dictatorship