

Month of Instruction	Title of Unit	Big Idea
August-September (1st Semester) January-February (2nd Semester)	Foundations of American Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Challenge •Conflict •Cooperation •Democracy •Diversity •Tyranny •Liberty •Justice
September-October (1st Semester) February-March (2nd Semester)	The Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Challenge •Conflict •Collaboration •Compromise •Democracy •Diversity

October-November (1st Semester) March-April (2nd Semester)	The Executive Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Balance•Challenge•Change•Continuity•Cooperation•Collaboration•Compromise•Democracy•Diversity•Liberty•Perspective
November (1st Semester) April (2nd Semester)	The Judicial Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Balance•Challenge•Change•Continuity•Cooperation•Collaboration•Compromise•Democracy•Diversity•Liberty•Perspective
November-December (1st Semester) April-May (2nd Semester)	The Legislative Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Balance•Challenge•Change•Continuity•Cooperation•Collaboration•Compromise•Democracy•Diversity•Liberty•Perspective

<p>December-January (1st Semester) May-June (2nd Semester)</p>	<p>Politics and Public Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Perspective •Diversity •Balance •Challenge •Conflict •Cooperation •Democracy •Liberty •Justice •Fairness
<p>If time permits at end of the semester</p>	<p>Budgeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Balance •Challenge •Continuity •Cooperation •Collaboration •Compromise •Democracy •Diversity •Liberty •Perspective
<p>If time permits at end of the semester</p>	<p>International Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Challenge •Conflict •Cooperation •Democracy •Diversity •Tyranny •Liberty •Justice •Perspective

If time permits at end of the semester	Civil Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Challenge•Conflict•Cooperation•Democracy•Diversity•Tyranny•Liberty•Justice
If time permits at end of the semester	Comparative Political and Economic Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Challenge•Conflict•Cooperation•Democracy•Diversity•Tyranny•Liberty•Justice
If time permits at end of the semester	State and Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Balance•Challenge•Change•Continuity•Cooperation•Collaboration•Compromise•Democracy•Diversity•Liberty•Perspective

American Government College Pre

Standards	Enduring Understandings
5.1.9.B, 5.1.9.C, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.A, 5.1.12.B, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.1.12.F, 5.2.9.A, 5.2.12.A, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Citizens understand their rights and practice their responsibilities in a vibrant society. •Civil discourse and thoughtful deliberation are necessary to promote the common good and protect the individual. •Engaged citizens understand the workings of government and use historic precedents in shaping thought and action. •Countries throughout the world develop different types of governments. •The practical experience and writings of philosophers influence the development of a new government.
5.1.9.C, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.3.9.A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The power of the U.S. government is limited by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. •Democratic societies must balance the rights and responsibilities of individuals with the common good. •Conflict resolution can involve aggression, compromise, cooperation, and change • A bill of rights guarantees fundamental individual rights to citizens. •Citizens understand their rights and practice their responsibilities in a vibrant society. •Civil discourse and thoughtful deliberation are necessary to promote the common good and protect the individual. •Engaged citizens understand the workings of government and use historic precedents in shaping thought and action.

<p>5.1.9.C, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.A, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.12.C, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.C</p>	<p>•Each branch of government has its own unique powers and structure. •The Constitution establishes the roles and qualifications of the President •The Executive Branch provides the leadership role in enforcing all governmental policies, domestic, and foreign. •The powers of the President have grown over time as the nation’s social and economic life has become more complex. •</p>
<p>5.1.9.C, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.A, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.12.C, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.C</p>	<p>•Each branch of government has its own unique powers and structure. •Judicial review protects and extends constitutional rights. *Interpretation of the law evolves and changes with the times.</p>
<p>5.1.9.C, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.A, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.12.C, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.C</p>	<p>•Each branch of government has its own unique powers and structure. •The structure of our government is rooted in the concept of compromise: The bicameral structure of Congress is a compromise between the two models of representation the Framers developed to accommodate the needs of small and large states. •Members of Congress must fill several roles as lawmakers, politicians, and servants of their constituents. •Bills must pass in both the House and the Senate before going to the President for approval. •The lawmaking process is intentionally cumbersome in order to ensure that each law has been thoroughly considered. •The Legislative Branch represents citizens in setting public policy and making laws.</p>

<p>5.1.9.A, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.B, 5.1.12.F, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.9.C, 5.2.12.B, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.D, 5.3.9.E</p>	<p>•To participate effectively in civic life, American citizens need to participate in the political process (voting), perform public service, be informed about current issues, and respect the opinions of others. •Various groups influence American voters in local, state, and national elections. •It is the responsibility of citizens to actively participate in politics.</p>
<p>5.1.9.A, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.B, 5.1.12.F, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.9.C, 5.2.12.B, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.D, 5.3.9.E</p>	<p>•The Federal Government, like an individual citizen is responsible for it's financial well-being and there are consequences for mismanaging one's money •The Federal Government, like an individual citizen has limited resources and must determine where to allocate it's funds. These decisions have enormous impact on American citizens.</p>
<p>5.1.9.A, 5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.B, 5.1.12.F, 5.2.9.B, 5.2.9.C, 5.2.12.B, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.D, 5.3.9.E</p>	<p>•American foreign policy has evolved and changed over time. •American foreign policy impacts millions at home and abroad. •American's involvement in world affairs continues to be ever increasing.</p>

<p>5.1.9.B, 5.1.9.C,5.1.9.D, 5.1.12.A, 5.1.12.B, 5.1.12.C, 5.1.12.D, 5.1.12.F, 5.2.9.A, 5.2.12.A, 5.3.9.A, 5.3.9.D</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Racial prejudice has resulted in the denial and struggle for certain groups to obtain civil rights. •Over time, the Federal Government has expanded civil rights and liberties.
<p>5.1, 5.1.9.B, 5.3.9.D, 5.3.9.J</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The rapid pace of technological change has established unprecedented economic, political, and cultural interdependence among nations. •Political and economic ideas motivate societies to new behaviors. •Nationalism plays a number of influential roles with far-reaching consequences in an interdependent world. •Economic and political structures of nation-states affect other nations in an interdependent world. •Governments can change and adapt based on the needs of their people. •Nations interact with each other through trade treaties and the use of force. •The actions of one nation can and will affect the lives of citizens in other nations.
<p>5.1, 5.1.8.A, 5.1.8.C, 5.1.8.D, 5.1.8.E, 5.2, 5.3.8.A, 5.3.8.B, 5.3.8.C, 5.3.8.D, 5.3.8.E</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The powers and structure of the state government are similar to that of the national government. • Local governments are created to help carry out the responsibilities of the state government.

ep Curriculum

Essential Questions	Common Assessments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How are governments created, structured, maintained, and changed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Why do governments exist? •How is power gained, used, and justified? •What are the different forms of government? • Why do countries throughout the world develop different forms of government? •What is limited government? •What is rule of law? •What influential eras/figures shaped Am. Gov.? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writ e ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to Foundations of Government) •Individual Reading assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What drives people to seek independence? •What did the Declaration of Independence mean to the American Colonists, and what does it mean to us today? •What are the main defining characteristics of the Articles of Confederation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How would you rate the overall effectiveness of the Articles of Confederation? •What major characteristics of the Articles of Confederation resulted in its demise and inspired the framers to create the Constitution? •What is the basic structure of the Constitution? •What are rights, liberties, and responsibilities of U.S. citizens? •What did the Bill of Rights mean when created and what does it mean to us today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is the basic structure, function, and powers of the U.S. •Government as established in the Constitution? •What are the roles of the three branches of government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is the difference between the U.S. & State Constitutions •How is the Constitution a living, breathing document? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writ e ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Constitution) •Individual Reading assignments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What makes a good leader? •What makes a good president? •How much power should & does the president have? •What are the roles and responsibilities of the President? the Executive Branch? •What are the roles and responsibilities of the executive departments? •How has the President's foreign policy evolved and changed over time? Does the current electoral process result in the best candidate for president? • How is the role of the executive branch different from the legislative and judicial branches? • How is the power of the executive checked by the Constitution and tradition? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Executive Branch) •Individual Reading assignments •Game Simulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How are the powers of the judicial branch unique among the three branches of government? •What are the basic levels levels and functions of the judicial branch? •What is the difference between civil and criminal law? •What is the role and responsibilities of the Supreme Court? What effects do landmark cases have on everyday life? What is judicial review? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Judicial Branch) •Individual Reading assignments •Game Simulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the basic roles and responsibilities of the legislative branch? •Why are there 2 chambers of Congress? •How does a bill become a law? What makes a successful Congress? •What makes a good representative? •Can and should the lawmaking process be improved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Legislative Branch) •Individual Reading assignments •Game Simulation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How can American citizens make a difference in their communities and country? • How do political parties, the media, and special interest groups influence the way Americans vote? • How do political parties, the media, and special interest groups influence public policy? •What are the strength and weaknesses of party systems including single party, two parties, and multiparty? •What are the differences between the two major political parties in the U.S.? •Which is a more effective way to elect officials, popular vote vs. the Electoral College? •What criteria are used in selecting political leaders? •What is an initiative, referendum, and/or a recall? •What is the process of becoming elected? •Who is allowed to vote, how has this evolved, and what obstacles to voting have existed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writ e ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Public Policy) •Individual Reading assignments •Mock election •Game Simulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is a budget? •What is the Federal Budget? •How does the Federal Government have revenue? •What is the process the government must go through when trying to balance a nation's budget? •How does the Federal Budget effect me? •Is the Federal Government effective in managing and allocating it's revenue? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writ e ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to the Federal Budget) •Individual Reading assignments •Budget Simulation •Game Simulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is a foreign policy? •What are the various stances on America's foreign policy? •What has/is/should be America's role in the world? •What motivates America's position on foreign affairs? •What roles/responsibilities do the three branches of government play with regard to foreign policy? •What international organizations exist? Should America be a part of these organizations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writ e ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to foreign policy) •Individual Reading assignments •Game Simulation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What civil rights and liberties were granted during the Civil War and Reconstruction? •What is the purpose of due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment? •Historically, what obstacles, restrictions, and struggles have certain groups faced in striving for civil rights? •What effect did Jim Crow laws have on Americans? •What roles & responsibilities do the three branches of government play in establishing and protecting rights? •What was the significance of the major civil rights Supreme Court cases and Acts passed during the 1960s? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to civil rights) •Individual Reading assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do local, state, and national governments determine how to allocate scarce resources in order to meet infinite wants and needs of citizens? •Should local, state, and federal governments promote economic growth? •What is the most preferred form of political system? economic system? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to different political and economic systems) •Individual Reading assignments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What are the duties and relationships of and between members of legislative, executive, and judicial branches of local, state, and national government? •How and why are powers distributed between local, state, and national governments? •How does state and local government affect me? •What is the law-making process at the state level? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Unit Test •Journal Entries •Current Event Reading assignments/debates/writes ups (based on controversial issues of the day as it relates to state and local government) •Individual Reading assignments

Common Resources

- Magruder's American Government Textbook
- <http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/foundations-government>
- <http://www.nationstates.net/>

- Magruder's American Government Textbook
- <http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/constitution>
- <http://www.courtsed.org/courts-in-the-classroom/>
- <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

- Magruder's American Government Textbook
- <http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/executive-branch>
- Fog of War documentary

- Magruder's American Government Textbook
- <http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/judicial-branch>
- <http://www.courtsed.org/courts-in-the-classroom/>
- <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

- Magruder's American Government Textbook
- <http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/legislative-branch>
- <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

•Magruder's American Government Textbook
•<http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/politics-and-public-policy>
•<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

•Magruder's American Government Textbook
•<http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/budgeting>
•<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

•Magruder's American Government Textbook
•<http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/international-affairs>
•<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>

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••<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>
•<http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/civil-rights>

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•Magruder's American Government Textbook
•<http://www.icivics.org/curriculum/state-and-local-government>•<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/>