

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>HIST 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations and Blueprints (LOR-1.A.2) • Representative Democracy (LOR-1.B.1) • Participation Models (OR-1.B.2) • Control and Delegation (CON-1.A.1) • Centralization and Decentralization (CON-1.A.2) • Weaknesses (CON-1.B.1) • Compromise (CON-1.C.1/ CON-1.C.2/CON-1.C.3) • Separation of Powers (PMI-1.A.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Description of Author's Claims/Perspectives and Explanation of Author's Arguments Relative to Political Principles, etc. • (SA4.a/SA4.b) • Articulation and Support of Defensible Claims (A5.a/A5.b)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The Declaration of Independence provides a foundation for popular sovereignty, while the U.S. Constitution provides the blueprint for a unique form of political democracy in the U.S.
- Representative democracies can take several forms along this scale: Participatory democracy, Pluralist democracy, Elite democracy.
- Different aspects of the U.S. Constitution reflect the tension between the broad participatory model and the more filtered participation of the pluralist and elite models.
- Arguments in Federalist No. 10 focused on the superiority of a large republic in controlling the "mischiefs of faction," delegating authority to elected representatives and dispersing power between the states and national government.
- Anti-Federalist writings adhered to popular democratic theory that emphasized the benefits of a small decentralized republic while warning of the dangers to personal liberty from a large, centralized government.
- Specific incidents and legal challenges highlighted key weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

CT Social Studies Framework

- In what ways does the American political system provide choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- The Constitution emerged from the debate about the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation as a blueprint for limited government.
- Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between national and state governments.
- A balance between governmental power and individual rights has been a hallmark of American political development.
- The Constitution created a competitive policymaking process to ensure the people's will is represented and that freedom is preserved.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- How did the founders of the U.S. Constitution attempt to protect individual liberty, while also promoting public order and safety?
- How have theory, debate, and compromise influenced the U.S. Constitutional system?
- How does the development and interpretation of the Constitution influence policies that impact citizens and residents of the U.S.?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>CIV 9-12.11 Government Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Government (LOR-1.A.1) • Representative Democracy (LOR-1.B.3) • Centralization, Decentralization and Separation of Powers (CON-1.C.4/PMI-1.A.1/PMI-1.B.1/PMI-1.B.2/CON-2.A.1/CON-2.B.1/CON-2.B.2) • National Policymaking (CON-2.C.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Description/Explanation: Political principles, institutions, processes, policies, behaviors (CA1.a/CA1.b.) • Description: facts/reasoning/decision/opinions of SCOTUS cases (SCA2.a)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The U.S. government is based on ideas of limited government, including natural rights, popular sovereignty, republicanism, and social contract.
- The three models of representative democracy continue to be reflected in contemporary institutions and political behavior.
- The debate over the role of the central government, the powers of state governments, and the rights of individuals remains at the heart of present-day constitutional issues about democracy and governmental power.
- The powers allocated to Congress, the president, and the courts demonstrate the separation of powers and checks and balances features of the U.S. Constitution.
- Multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy flow from the separation of powers and checks and balances.
- Impeachment, removal, and other legal actions taken against public officials deemed to have abused their power reflect the purpose of checks and balances.
- The exclusive and concurrent powers of the national and state governments help explain the negotiations over the balance of power between the two levels.

- Compromises are deemed necessary for adoption and ratification of the Constitution.
- Debates about self-government during the drafting of the Constitution necessitated the drafting of an amendment process in Article V.
- The compromises necessary to secure ratification of the Constitution left some matters unresolved that continue to generate discussion and debate today.
- Constitutional provisions of separation of powers and checks and balances control abuses by majorities.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How were Federalists different than Anti-Federalists? (F)
- What are Americans' core values and philosophies about government? (F/P)
- What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, and on what values were they based?(C)
- Is ours an elitist or pluralist system? (C)
- How does the US Constitution both expand federal power while protecting state and individual power? (C)
- How did federalism evolve from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution? (C)
- How far away are we from the Founding Fathers' vision of federalism? (C)

- The interpretation of enumerated and implied powers is at the heart of the debate over the balance of power between the national and state governments.
- The balance of power between the national and state governments has changed over time based on U.S. Supreme Court interpretation.
- National policymaking is constrained by the sharing of power between and among the three branches and state governments.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What powers belong to the national government? To state governments? To both? (F)
- How is political power distributed in the US? (F)
- How do politics drive democracy? (C)
- What political values shape the Constitution? (C)
- What if there was no government? (P)

Unit Focus:
Foundations of American Democracy
Concept Lens:
Structure, Power, Balance

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
ECO 9-12.3 Changing Distribution of Power (CON-2.A.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Description/Explanation: political principles, institutions, processes, policies, behaviors (CA1.a/CA1.b.)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The distribution of power between federal and state governments to meet the needs of society changes.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the different types of grants? Which one is more efficient? (F)
- How can federal funds advance or hinder the needs of society? (C)
- How did Constitutional compromises reflect competing interests and values? (C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
GEO 9-12.1 Allocation of National and State Powers (CON-2.C.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Description, Explanation, and Conclusions of data, patterns, trends (DA3.a/ DA3.b)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Multiple access points for stakeholders and institutions to influence public policy flow from the allocation of powers between national and state governments.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How is policy created? Who sets the agenda? Who benefits? Who pays? (C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>HIST 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justifications (CON-4.C.1) Restrictions and Changing Presidential Roles (CON-4.C.2) Perspectives (CON-4.C.3) Judicial Branch Foundations (CON-5.A.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Explanation of Implications of Author's Argument and Relationship Between Visual Elements and Politics (SA 4.c/SA4.d) Reasoning, Organization, Refutation/ Rebuttal (A5.c/A5.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Justifications for a single executive are set forth in Federalist No. 70.
- Term-of-office and constitutional-power restrictions demonstrate changing presidential roles.
- Different perspectives on the presidential role continue to be debated in the context of contemporary events.
- The foundation for powers of the judicial branch and how its independence checks the power of other institutions and state governments are set forth in: Article III of the Constitution, Federalist No. 78, Marbury v. Madison (1803)

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the formal and informal qualifications to be POTUS? (F)
- Which of the president's powers are expressed? Delegated? Inherent? (F)
- How do the actual roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches compare to what was prescribed by the first 3 articles of the Constitution? (C)
- What has been the impact of party, interest groups, public opinion, and media on these branches? (C)
- What accounts for the rise of presidential government? (C)

CT Social Studies Framework

- In what ways does the American political system provide choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch.
- The presidency has been enhanced beyond its expressed constitutional powers.
- The design of the judicial branch protects the Supreme Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.
- The federal bureaucracy is a powerful institution implementing federal policies with sometimes questionable accountability.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- How do the branches of the national government compete and cooperate in order to govern?
- To what extent have changes in the powers of each branch affected how responsive and accountable the national government is in the 21st century?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>Government Decisions (CIV 9-12.11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chambers and Debates (CON-3.A.2) Senate/House Representation (CON-3.A.1) Coalitions (CON-3.A.3) Enumeration and Implied Powers (CON-3.A.4) House/Senate Policy-Making (CON-3.B.1) Differing Constitutional Responsibilities of House/Senate (CON-3.B.2) Chambers and Policy-Making (CON-3.B.3) Ideological Differences and Governing Effectiveness (CON-3.C.1) Presidential Policy Agendas, Powers, Potential Conflicts, and Communication Impact (CON-4.A.1/CON-4.A.2 /CON-4.B./CON-4.B.2/CON-4.B.3 /CON-4.D.1) Judicial and Supreme Court Decisions, Impacts, Powers, and Restrictions (CON-5.B.1/CON-5.B.2/CON-5.B.3/CON-5.B.4/CON-5.C.1) Tasks, Effectiveness, and Authority of Departments, Agencies, Commissions, and Government Corporations (PMI-2.A.1/PMI-2.A.2/PMI-2.B.1) Congressional Oversight (PMI-2.C.1/PMI-2.C.2) Presidential Influence on Executive Branch Agencies (PMI-2.D.1) Compliance Monitoring and Policy Implementation (PMI-2.D.2) Formal and Informal Powers for Accountability (PMI-2.E.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Comparison: Political principles, institutions, processes, policies, behaviors (CA1.b/CA1.c) Relationship Between SCOTUS Cases and Foundational Documents (SCA.2.b)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Different chamber sizes and constituencies influence formality of debate.
- The Senate is designed to represent states equally, while the House is designed to represent the population.
- Coalitions in Congress are affected by term-length differences.
- The enumerated and implied powers in the Constitution allow the creation of public policy by Congress
- By design, the different structures, powers, and functions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives affect the policy-making process.
- Different constitutional responsibilities of the House and Senate affect the policy-making process.
- Chamber-specific procedures, rules, and roles impact the policy-making process.
- Congressional behavior and governing effectiveness are influenced by: ideological divisions, elections that have led to a divided government, different role conceptions of "trustee," "delegate," and "politico".
- Presidents use powers and perform functions of the office to accomplish a policy agenda.
- The president has formal and informal powers.
- The potential for conflict with the Senate depends upon the type of executive branch appointments.
- Senate confirmation is an important check on appointment powers, but the president's longest lasting influence lies in life-tenured judicial appointments.
- Policy initiatives and executive orders promoted by the president often lead to conflict with the congressional agenda.
- The communication impact of the presidency can be demonstrated through multiple factors.
- Precedents and *stare decisis* play an important role in judicial decision making.
- Ideological changes in the composition of the Supreme Court due to presidential appointments have led to the Court's establishing new or rejecting existing precedents.
- Controversial or unpopular Supreme Court decisions can lead to challenges of the Court's legitimacy and power which Congress and the president can address only through future appointments, legislation changing the Court's jurisdiction, or refusing to implement decisions.
- Political discussion about the Supreme Court's power is illustrated by the ongoing debate over judicial activism versus judicial restraint.
- Restrictions on the Supreme Court are represented by: Congressional legislation, Constitutional amendments, judicial appointments and confirmations, the president and states evading or ignoring Supreme Court decisions, and legislation impacting court jurisdiction.
- Departments, agencies, commissions, and government corporations perform multiple tasks.
- Political patronage, civil service, and merit system reforms all impact the effectiveness of the bureaucracy by promoting professionalism, specialization, and neutrality.
- Discretionary and rule-making authority to implement policy are given to bureaucratic departments, agencies, and commissions.
- Oversight and methods used by Congress to ensure that legislation is implemented as intended are represented by: committee hearings and power of the purse
- As a means to curtail the use of presidential power, congressional oversight serves as a check of executive

- authorization and appropriation.
- Presidential ideology, authority, and influence affect how executive branch agencies carry out the goals of the administration.
- Compliance monitoring can pose a challenge to policy implementation.
- Formal and informal powers of Congress, the president, and the courts over the bureaucracy are used to maintain its accountability.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How and why is power distributed differently between the House and Senate? (F)
- What is the difference between bureaucratic & coalitional drift? (F)
- What is oversight and how is it exercised by Congress? (F)
- What are the trends/differences between civil/criminal courts? (F)
- What is the principal-agent relationship? (F)
- What are iron triangles and issue networks? (F)
- How do political parties impact committees? (F/C)
- Do Congressmen act as delegates or trustees? (C)
- What are the power dynamics in Congress? (C)
- What pressures do Congressional leaders face?(C)
- Does seniority or incumbency play a role in the effectiveness of Congress? (C)
- How do the courts exercise political roles? (C)
- Is Congress broken? (P)
- Is judicial activism undemocratic? Is judicial restraint cowardly? (P)

Unit Focus:
Interactions Among Branches of Government
Concept Lens:
Interdependence, Relationships, Power, Balance

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
ECO 9-12.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Congressional Budgeting (CON-3.B.4) ● Congressional Oversight (PMI-2.C.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) ● Explain Patterns and Implications/Draw Conclusions (DA 3.c./3.d.)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Congress must generate a budget that addresses both discretionary and mandatory spending.
- Oversight and methods are used by Congress to ensure that legislation is implemented as intended.
- **Essential/Guiding Questions:**
- How does Congress use its oversight power and power of the purse to ensure legislation is implemented? (F)
- What factors influence votes and loyalty? (C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
GEO 9-12.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pork Barrel Legislation and Logrolling (CON-3.B.5) ● Gerrymandering, Redistricting, Unequal Representation (CON-3.C.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) ● Explanation of Visual Elements (SA 4.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Pork barrel legislation and logrolling affect lawmaking in both chambers.
- CON-3.C.1: Congressional behavior and governing effectiveness are influenced by gerrymandering, redistricting, and unequal representation of constituencies.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How does pork barrel legislation bring power? (F)
- How is congressional behavior influenced by election processes, partisanship, and divided government? (C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>HIST 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpretation and Application of First Amendment (LOR-2.C.1) ● Symbolic Speech (LOR-2.C.2) ● Balancing Social Order and Individual Freedom (LOR-2.C.3) ● Freedom of the Press (LOR-2.C.4) ● Interpretations of the Second Amendment (LOR-2.C.5) ● Selective Incorporation (LOR-3.A.1) ● Application and Interpretation of Due Process Clause (LOR-3.B.4/ LOR-3.B.5) ● Application of Equal Protection Clause to Social Movements (PRD-1.A.2) ● Minority Rights (CON-6.A.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) ● Supreme Court Applications to Scenarios Context (SCA2.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The interpretation and application of the First Amendment's establishment and free exercise clauses reflect an ongoing debate over balancing majoritarian religions practice and free exercise.
- The Supreme Court has held that symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment.
- Efforts to balance social order and individual freedom are reflected in interpretations of the First Amendment that limit speech.
- The Supreme Court bolstered the freedom of the press, establishing a "heavy presumption against prior restraint" even in cases involving national security.
- The Supreme Court's decisions on the Second Amendment rest upon its constitutional interpretation of individual liberty.
- The doctrine of selective incorporation has imposed on state regulation of civil rights and liberties.
- The due process clause has been applied to guarantee the right to an attorney and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- While a right to privacy is not explicitly named in

CT Social Studies Framework

- In what ways does the American political system provide choice and opportunities for participation?
- How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision making?

Unit Enduring Understandings:

- The Supreme Court's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution is influenced by the composition of the Court and citizen-state interactions. At times, it has restricted minority rights and, at others, protected them.
- Provisions of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals.
- Protections of the Bill of Rights have been selectively incorporated by way of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause to prevent state infringement of basic liberties.
- The Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause as well as other constitutional provisions have often been used to support the advancement of equality.
- Public Policy promoting civil rights is influenced by citizen-state interactions and constitutional interpretation over time.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- To what extent do the U.S. Constitution and its amendments protect against undue government infringement on essential liberties and

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>Government Decisions (CIV 9-12.11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill of Rights and Protection of Individual Liberties/Rights (LOR-2.A.1/ LOR-2.A.2/ LOR-2.B.1) ● Court Interpretations of Application of Bill of Rights (LOR-2.A.3) ● Cruel and Unusual Punishment (LOR-2.D.1) ● Public Safety and Individual Rights (LOR-2.D.2/ LOR-3.B.1) ● Due Process Rights (LOR-3.B.2) ● Pretrial Rights (LOR-3.B.3) ● Civil Rights (PRD-1.A.1) ● Affirmative Action (CON-6.A.2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) ● Supreme Court Decisions: Relationships and Comparisons (SCA.2.b/2.c) ● Description and Explanation: Scenarios in Context (CA1.d/CA1.e)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The U.S. Constitution includes a Bill of Rights specifically designed to protect individual liberties and rights.
- Civil liberties are constitutionally established guarantees and freedoms that protect citizens, opinions, and property against arbitrary government interference.
- The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, which enumerate the liberties and rights of individuals.
- The application of the Bill of Rights is continuously interpreted by the courts.
- Court decisions defining cruel and unusual punishment involve interpretation of the Eighth Amendment and its application to state death penalty statutes over time.
- The debate about the Second and Fourth Amendments involves concerns about public safety and whether or not the government regulation of firearms or collection of digital metadata promotes or interferes with public safety and individual rights.
- The Supreme Court has on occasion ruled in favor of states' power to restrict individual liberty.
- The Miranda rule involves the interpretation and application of accused persons' due process rights as protected by the Fifth and Sixth Amendments, yet the Supreme Court has sanctioned a public safety exception that allows unwarned interrogation to stand as direct evidence in court.
- Pretrial rights of the accused and the prohibition of unreasonable searches and seizures are intended to ensure that citizen liberties are not eclipsed by the

the Constitution, the Supreme Court has interpreted the due process clause to protect the right of privacy from state infringement. This interpretation of the due process clause has been the subject of controversy.

- The leadership and events associated with civil, women's, and LGBTQ rights are evidence of how the equal protection clause can support and motivate social movements.
- Decisions demonstrate that minority rights have been restricted at times and protected at other times.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How does the Constitution protect civil liberties for people accused of crime or designated as "enemy combatants?" (C)
- How have Supreme Court rulings and federal legislation attempted to end racial discrimination and advance women's rights in the US? (C)
- Determine how the evolution of affirmative action programs has attempted to remedy racial segregation. (C)
- How did 9/11 impact US government structure, policy, and citizens' civil liberties? (P)

from invidious discrimination?

- How have U.S. Supreme Court rulings defined civil liberties and civil rights?

need for social order and security.

- Civil rights protect individuals from discrimination based on characteristics such as race, national origin, religion, and sex; these rights are guaranteed to all citizens under the due process and equal protection clauses of the U.S. Constitution, as well as acts of Congress.
- The debate on affirmative action includes justices who insist that the Constitution is colorblind and those who maintain that it forbids only racial classifications designed to harm minorities, not help them.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What's the difference between civil rights and civil liberties? (F)
- How did rights come to be selectively incorporated? (F)
- Which forms of expression are protected in the Constitution and why? (F)
- How does the Constitution protect religious freedom? (F)
- Why are the courts so important in defining civil liberties? (C)

Unit Focus:
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Concept Lens:
Individual Freedom, Discrimination,
Beliefs and Values

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>ECO 9-12.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Rulings/ Policies Related to Social Movements (PMI-3.A.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Political Principles, Institutions, Processes, Policies, Behaviors: Scenarios in Context (CA1.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- American economic policies can determine equal opportunity or equitable outcome for its citizens.
- The government can respond to social movements through court rulings and/or policies.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What is our American economic ideology? (F)
- What are our American economic values? (F)
- How did our economic policy move from Smith to Keynes and beyond? (C)
- What of nations who value equitable outcome not just equal opportunity? (P)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>GEO 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Response (PMI-3.A.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Supreme Court Reasoning/Decisions/ Opinions: Comparison to Non-Required SCOTUS Cases (SCA.2.c)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Conflicts in different regions of the United States can lead to differing opinions on civil rights and civil liberties.
- The government can respond to social movements through court rulings and/or policies.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- Why do different regions vary in their ideologies? (F/C)
- How did the Civil Rights movement gain footing and spread to different regions of the country? (C)
- How did historical conflicts in the US shape future interpretations of civil liberties? (C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>HIST 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generational and Lifecycle Effects on Political Attitudes (MPA-1.B.3) Political Socialization (MPA-1.B.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Political Principles, Institutions, Processes, Policies, and Behaviors: Explanation and Application in Context/Explanation of Implications of Author's Argument/Explanation of Visual Elements (CA1.e/SA4.c/SA 4.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Generational and lifecycle effects also contribute to the political socialization that influences an individual's political attitudes.
- The relative importance of major political events to the development of individual political attitudes is an example of political socialization.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- Who contributes to the development of an individual's political attitudes and socialization? (F)
- Why did the Founding Fathers lack trust in the average citizen to determine public policy? (C)
- What are major political events that determine the development of an individual's political attitude? (C)
- How do policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative or liberal perspectives in political parties? (P)
- How has the federal government balanced individual liberty while trying to promote stability and order through public policy? (P)

CT Social Studies Framework

- In what ways does the American political system provide choice and opportunities for participation?
 - How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision making?
- Unit Enduring Understandings:**
- Widely held political ideologies shape policy debates and choices in American policies.
 - Citizen beliefs about government are shaped by the intersection of demographics, political culture, and dynamic social change.
 - Public opinion is measured through scientific polling, and the results of public opinion polls influence public policies and institutions.
- Overarching Essential Questions:**
- How are American political beliefs formed and how do they evolve over time?
 - How do political ideology and core values influence government policy making?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>Government Decisions (CIV 9-12.11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretations of Core Values (MPA-1.A.1) Political Socialization (MPA-1.B.1) Effects on Public Opinion Data (MPA-2.A.1) Relationship Between Scientific Polling, Elections, and Policy Debates (MPA-2.B.1) Party Platforms and Ideological Positions (PMI-4.A.1) Individual Liberties and Governmental Stability (PMI-4.B.2) Liberal, Conservative, and Libertarian Ideologies (PMI-4.E.1) Policy Trends and Social Issues (PMI-4.F.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Supported, Reasoned, Justified Argument Including Refutation/Concession/Rebuttal (A5.b/A5.c/A5.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Different interpretations of core values, including individualism, equality of opportunity, free enterprise, rule of law, and limited government, affect the relationship between citizens and the federal government and the relationships citizens have with one another.
- Family, schools, peers, media, and social environments (including civic and religious organizations) contribute to the development of an individual's political attitudes and values through the process of political socialization.
- Public opinion data that can impact elections and policy debates is affected by such scientific polling types and methods as: type of poll, sampling techniques, identification of respondents, mass survey or focus group, sampling error, and type and format of questions.
- The relationship between scientific polling and elections and policy debates is affected by: the importance of public opinion as a source of political influence in a given election or policy debate, reliability and veracity of public opinion data.
- The Democratic Party platforms generally align more closely to liberal ideological positions, and the Republican Party platforms generally align more closely to conservative ideological positions.
- The balancing dynamic of individual liberty and government efforts to promote stability and order has been reflected in policy debates and their outcomes over

time.

- Liberal ideologies tend to think that personal privacy— areas of behavior where government should not intrude—extends further than conservative ideologies do (except in arenas involving religious and educational freedom); conservative ideologies favor less government involvement to ensure social and economic equality; and libertarian ideologies disfavor any governmental intervention beyond the protection of private property and individual liberty.
- Policy trends concerning the level of government involvement in social issues reflect the success of conservative or liberal perspectives in political parties.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are key sources of political culture in the US? (F)
- What factors shape public opinion? (F)
- What does it mean to be "conservative" and "liberal"? (F)
- What is a political party and what functions do parties perform, in the electorate and in the government? (F)
- How do we measure public opinion? (F/C)
- What is the relationship between public opinion and public policy? (C)
- How do you explain the concept of political culture and its key concepts in the US? (C)

Unit Focus:
American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
Concept Lens:
Beliefs and Values, Interactions

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>ECO 9-12.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization and U.S. Political Culture (MPA-1.B.2) • Ideologies and Governmental Regulation (PMI-4.C.1) • Ideologies and Marketplace Regulation (PMI-4.D.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/ INQ 9-12.15) • Explanation of Limitations Visual Data (DA3.f)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- As a result of globalization, U.S. political culture has both influenced and been influenced by the values of other countries.
- Liberal ideologies favor more governmental regulation of the marketplace, conservative ideologies favor fewer regulations, and libertarian ideologies favor little or no regulation of the marketplace beyond the protection of property rights and voluntary trade.
- Ideological differences on marketplace regulation are based on different theoretical support, including Keynesian and supply-side positions on monetary and fiscal policies promoted by the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What are the four main theories of economic policymaking? (F)
- How do American institutions work to set economic policy? (C)
- Based on our budget process, why is it difficult to either cut spending or increase taxes? (C)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>GEO 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation, Attitudes, and Beliefs of Citizens in a Diverse Society on Public Policies (PMI-4.B.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Explain Limitations of Data (DA3.e)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Because the U.S. is a democracy with a diverse society, public policies generated at any given time reflect the attitudes and beliefs of citizens who choose to participate in politics at that time.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How does the US differ from other countries in its political culture? (C)
- How has communication technology changed the president's relationship with the national constituency and other branches? (C)
- How have globalization and the values of other countries impacted US political culture? (C)

Strand 1: History

Concepts	Skills Processes
<p>HIST 9-12.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Protections (MPA-3.A.1) Party Adaptations and Modifications (PMI-5.C.1/ PMI-5.C.2) Goals of Groups and Movements (PMI-5.G.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Explanation of Implications of Author's Argument (SA 4.c)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Legal protections found in federal legislation and Amendments relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation.
- Parties have adapted to candidate-centered campaigns, and their role in nominating candidates has been weakened.
- Parties modify their policies and messaging to appeal to various demographic coalitions.
- Single-issue groups, ideological/social movements, and protest movements form with the goal of impacting society and policy making.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What other ways do citizens participate in a democracy? (F)
- Did the US Constitution originally include voting as a fundamental right? (C)
- How do voters decide? (C)
- Does low voter turn-out matter? (C)
- Should voting be made easier? (C)
- How do interest groups influence policy? (C)
- Whose interests are represented in the government regulated electoral process and the composition of the electorate? (P)

CT Social Studies Framework

- In what ways does the American political system provide choice and opportunities for participation?
 - How are deliberation and compromise necessary for political decision making?
- Unit Enduring Understandings:**
- The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum.
 - The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically.
 - Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government and policy-makers.
 - Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation.

Overarching Essential Questions:

- How have changes in technology influenced political communication and behavior?
- Why do levels of participation and influence in politics vary?
- How effective are the various methods of political participation in shaping public policies?

Strand 2: Civics

Concepts	Skills Processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government Decisions (CIV 9-12.11) Political Models as Explanations of Voting Behavior (MPA-3.B.1) Influences on Voter Choice (MPA-3.C.3) Linkage Institutions (PMI-5.A.1) Functions and Impact of Political Parties (PMI-5.B.1) Political Party Outreach and Messaging (PMI-5.C.4) Third Party Agendas (PMI-5.D.2) Competing Interests/Actors (PMI-5.G.2) Major Policy Shifts/ Initiatives (PMI-5.G.3) U.S. Presidential Elections (PRD-2.A.1) U.S. Congressional Elections (PRD-2.C.1) Communications, Media, Social Media and Political Participation (PRD-3.A.1/ PRD-3.B.1) Poling and Elections (PRD-3.A.2) Media Bias (PRD-3.B.2) Democratic Debate and Political Knowledge (PRD-3.B.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) Reasoned and Justified Argument Including Refutation/Concession/Rebuttal (A5.b/ A5.c/A5.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- Political models can explain voting behavior.
- Factors influencing voter choice include: party identification and ideological orientation, candidate characteristics, contemporary political issues, religious beliefs or affiliation, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics.
- Linkage institutions are channels, such as the following, that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers: parties, interest groups, elections, and media.
- The functions and impact of political parties on the electorate and government are represented by: mobilization and education of voters, party platforms, candidate recruitment, campaign management, including fundraising and media strategy, the committee and party leadership systems in legislatures.
- Parties use communication technology and voter-data management to disseminate, control, and clarify political messages and enhance outreach and mobilization efforts.
- The incorporation of third-party agendas into platforms of major political parties serves as a barrier to third-party and independent candidate success.

- Competing actors such as interest groups, professional organizations, social movements, the military, and bureaucratic agencies influence policy making, such as the federal budget process, at key stages and to varying degrees.
- Elections and political parties are related to major policy shifts or initiatives, occasionally leading to political realignments of voting constituencies.
- The process and outcomes in U.S. presidential elections are impacted by: incumbency advantage phenomenon, open and closed primaries, caucuses, party conventions, congressional and state elections, the Electoral College.
- The process and outcomes in U.S. Congressional elections are impacted by: incumbency advantage phenomenon, open and closed primaries, caucuses, general (presidential and mid-term) elections.
- Traditional news media, new communication technologies, and advances in social media have profoundly influenced how citizens routinely acquire political information, including new events, investigative journalism, election coverage, and political commentary.
- The media's use of polling results to convey popular levels of trust and confidence in government can impact elections by turning such events into "horse races" based more on popularity and factors other than qualifications and platforms of candidates.
- Political participation is influenced by a variety of media coverage, analysis, and commentary on political events.
- The rapidly increasing demand for media and political communications outlets from an ideologically diverse audience have led to debates over media bias and the impact of media ownership and partisan news sites.
- The nature of democratic debate and the level of political knowledge among citizens is impacted by: increased media choices, ideologically oriented programming, consumer-driven media outlets and emerging technologies that reinforce existing beliefs, uncertainty over the credibility of news sources and information.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How is public opinion measured and manipulated? (F)
- What/Who are the agents of political socialization, and to what extent are we influenced by outside sources? (F)
- What role do third parties play in the electoral process? (F)
- When does the inclusion of public opinion become "hyper-pluralism"? (C)
- What types of elections enable voters to become more directly involved in decision making? (C)
- Does media shape or affirm public opinion? (C)
- What role does the media play as a linkage institution? (C)
- How has the consolidation of media has led to reduced "checks and balances"? (C)

Unit Focus:
Political Participation
Concept Lens:
Identity, Transformation, Reform,
Influence

Strand 3: Economics

Concepts	Skills Processes
ECO 9-12.3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of Parties (PMI-5.C.3) • Interest Groups and Means of Influence (PMI-5.E.1/PMI-5.E.2/ PMI-5.F.1) • Benefits and Drawbacks of Modern Campaigns (PRD-2.D.1) • Campaign Finance, Free Speech, PACs and Fair Elections (PRD-2.E.1/PRD-2.E.2/PRD-2.E.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Explain Implications and Limitations of Data (DA3.d/ DA3.e)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- The structure of parties has been influenced by: critical elections and regional realignments, campaign finance law, changes in communication and data-management technology.
- Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies.
- In addition to working within party coalitions, interest groups exert influence through long-standing relationships with bureaucratic agencies, congressional committees, and other interest groups; such relationships are described as "iron triangles" and issue networks and they help interest groups exert influence across political party coalitions.
- Interest group influence may be impacted by: inequality of political and economic resources, unequal access to decision makers, and "free rider" problem.
- The benefits and drawbacks of modern campaigns are represented by: dependence on professional consultants, rising campaign costs and intensive fundraising efforts, duration of election cycles, and impact of and reliance on social media for campaign communication and fundraising.
- Federal legislation and case law pertaining to campaign finance demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech.
- Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, PACs, and political parties).
- Different types of political action committees (PACs) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- What attempts have been made to curb campaign finance? (F)
- What are iron triangles and issue networks? (F)
- Does government regulation impact voters' decisions? (C)
- How do reapportionment and redistricting impact the distribution of power in Congress? (C)
- What is the impact of Citizens United and related decisions? (P)

Strand 4: Geography

Concepts	Skills Processes
GEO 9-12.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics, Political Efficacy, and structural Barriers (MPA-3.C.1) • Likelihood of Individuals Voting (MPA-3.C.2) • Proportional vs. Winner-Take-All Voting Districts (PMI-5.D.1) • Electoral College and Popular Vote (PRD-2.B.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and Interpretation of Text-Based Sources (INQ 9-12.5/INQ 9-12.6/INQ 9-12.15) • Explanation: Scenarios in Context (CA1.e) • Explain implications of Data (DA 3.d)

Abbreviated Strand Understandings:

- In addition to the impact that demographics and political efficacy can have on voter choice and turnout, structural barriers and type of election also affect voter turnout in the U.S., as represented by: state voter registration laws, procedures on how, when, and where to vote, and mid-term (congressional) or general presidential elections.
- Demographic characteristics and political efficacy or engagement are used to predict the likelihood of whether an individual will vote.
- In comparison to proportional systems, winner-take-all voting districts serve as a structural barrier to third-party and independent candidate success.
- The winner-take-all allocation of votes per state (except Maine and Nebraska) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.

Essential/Guiding Questions:

- How and why do politicians gerrymander districts? (F)
- How have realignments and critical elections impacted parties? (C)
- Are we in 6th party system? (P)