

Shaun Lehr
 12th Grade Social Studies – United States Government – Syllabus
 School Year: 2025–2026

Second Semester (January – May)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>TEKS Covered</u>
1. Political Philosophy: Governments Are Instituted Among Men (Jan 6 – Jan 21)	Students examine historical political philosophies and debates that influenced the creation and structure of the U.S. Constitution.	USG.1A–F, USG.6C, USG.19A–F (<i>B–C Developing</i>), USG.20A–C
2. The U.S. Constitution: The Blessings of Liberty (Jan 22 – Feb 12)	Students examine the principles of limited government and fundamental rights embodied in the U.S. Constitution and its ongoing debates.	USG.6A, USG.6D–F, USG.12A–G, USG.15B, USG.19A–F (<i>B–C Developing</i>), USG.20A–C, USG.21A
3. A Federalist System: A More Perfect Union Movement 1900-1970s (Feb 16 – Mar 4)	Students analyze the U.S. federalist system created by the Constitution to understand how power is divided and how it differs from centralized governments.	USG.6B, USG.7G–H, USG.8A–D, USG.11A–B, USG.19A–F (<i>C Developing</i>), USG.20A–C
4. The Branches of Government: Of the People, By the People, For the People (Mar 5 – Apr 1)	Students study the three branches of government and the system of checks and balances to understand the structure of the U.S. federal system.	USG.1F, USG.7A–E, USG.9B–C, USG.19A–F (<i>B–C Developing</i>), USG.20A–B, USG.21A
5. Governmental Policies: Establishing Justice and Promoting the General Welfare (Apr 2 – Apr 27)	Students examine how U.S. domestic and foreign policies are created and implemented to address political, economic, and social conditions.	USG.4A–C, USG.5A–B, USG.7F, USG.16A–B, USG.17A–B, USG.19A–F (<i>D–E Developing</i>), USG.20A–C, USG.21A–B
6. The Political Process: We the People (Apr 28 – May 20)	Students explore the role of citizens in the democratic process to understand how civic participation shapes government.	USG.2A–B, USG.3A–C, USG.9A, USG.10A–B, USG.13A–C, USG.14A–C, USG.15A, USG.18A–B, USG.19A–F (<i>C, E Developing</i>), USG.20A–C, USG.21A–B (<i>B Developing</i>)

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Skills & Assessments (Applied Throughout Year)

Skills TEKS: USG.19A–F, USG.20A–C, USG.21A–B (*with some Developing depending on unit pacing*)

Formative Assessments: Exit Tickets, Do Now / Warm Ups, Guided Practice Questions, Edpuzzle Checks, Journals, Source Analysis, Discussion Questions

Summative Assessments: Unit Quizzes, Unit Tests, Written Responses, Civic Participation Projects

Ongoing Focus: Critical Thinking, Source Analysis, Evaluation of Arguments, Civic Engagement, Evidence-Based Reasoning, Discussion & Collaboration

Grading Policy

- **40% Assessments (tests, projects, lab write-ups, performance tasks)**
- **60% Daily Work (classwork, participation, interactive notebooks, weekly activities)**
- **Late work will be assessed a 10% penalty for every day that it is late.**

Goals

Examine Political Philosophy

- Students will study the ideas and philosophies that influenced the Founding Fathers and shaped the U.S. Constitution.

Understand the U.S. Constitution

- Students will analyze the principles of limited government, checks and balances, federalism, and the rights guaranteed to citizens.

Analyze Federalism and the Branches of Government

- Students will explain how power is divided between federal and state governments and evaluate the roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Explore Public Policy and Civic Engagement

- Students will evaluate how government policies are created and implemented, and how citizens participate in the political process to influence change.

Develop Civic Literacy Skills

- Students will strengthen their ability to analyze sources, evaluate arguments, and communicate informed positions on governmental and civic issues.