

**Department:** History

**Course Name:** Civics and World Geography

**Course Description:**

This course is divided into two distinct units of study. The first unit of the year focuses on Civics with an emphasis on exploring and understanding the United States Constitution and the electoral process.

Through these studies, students will gain an understanding of and greater appreciation for the rights and responsibilities that come with U.S. Citizenship. The second semester unit focuses on World Geography with an emphasis on global awareness and the connections between culture and region. Through general studies of global regions, students will build a foundation for future study and analysis of modern issues and political developments that shape our global societies. Map skills are developed throughout the year, as students explore the political locations and physical features and the different cultures of our world.

**Content:**

Introduction to Civics

Understanding different types of government

History behind the Declaration of Independence and The U.S Constitution

Understanding our Constitution

Branches of government

History behind the amendments

Relevant court cases

Responsibility of citizenship

Introduction to Geography

Themes & Elements

Map skills

Planet Earth

Climate

Environment

Resources

The World's People

Human and physical geography

The Americas

Europe and Russia

Southwest & Central Asia

Africa

South and East Asia and the Pacific

**Skills:**

Analyze maps and graphs

Strengthen oral communication skills via class discussions, oral presentations, and student led debate

Develop basic research skills using library and Internet sources

Strengthen writing skills using a thesis driven five paragraph essays

Refine research skills using primary source material, including literature and archaeological evidence

Strengthen basic study skills, including vocabulary acquisition, note-taking, and outlining

Use technology (Notability, iMovie, etc.) to complete assignments and projects

Compare and contrast various historical periods and cultural topics

**Text and Materials:**

The Constitution of the United States of America

The Declaration of Independence

U.S Constitution Study Guide. Holt  
Christopher L. Salter. World Geography. Harcourt Mifflin.  
Skill development handouts  
Traceable maps

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture  
Debate  
Simulations and games  
Nearpod  
Group/Independent Activities  
Notes  
E-mail Exchange

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Homework Assignments  
Special Projects (Google Slides, Posters, Independent/Group Research)  
Section Quizzes  
Chapter Tests  
Unit Tests  
Essays

