In Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy, students examine the history, principles, and function of the political system established by the U.S. Constitution. Starting with a basic introduction to the role of government in society and the philosophies at the heart of American democracy, this course provides students with the knowledge needed to be informed and empowered participants in the U.S. and state political systems.

Through critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to conduct research, analyze sources, make arguments, and take informed action. In written assignments, students address critical questions about state and national politics and the role of individual Americans in the U.S. political system. In discussion activities, students respond to political opinions, take a position, and defend their own claims. Formative and summative assessments provide students — and teachers — with ample opportunities to check in, review, and evaluate students' progress in the course.

This course is built to North Carolina state standards.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to American Government

- Essential Skills
- Ideas about Government
- Origins of American Government
- Wrap-Up: Introduction to American Government

Unit 2: The U.S. Constitution

- Establishing the Constitution
- Examining the Constitution
- Federalism in the United States
- Wrap-Up: The U.S. Constitution

Unit 3: Institutions of the Federal Government

- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- Wrap-Up: Institutions of the Federal Government

Unit 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Foundational Freedoms
- Interpreting Civil Liberties
- Fighting for Civil Rights

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- Wrap-Up: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 5: Semester 1 Review and Exam

Unit 6: Citizen Connections

- Institutions with Influence
- Elections and Campaigns
- State and Local Government
- Wrap-Up: Citizen Connections

Unit 7: The Legal System

- Laws and Justice in the United States
- Criminal Justice
- Civil Justice
- Wrap-Up: The Legal System

Unit 8: Public Policy

- Understanding Public Policy
- Domestic Policy
- Economic Policy
- Foreign Policy
- Wrap-Up: Public Policy

Unit 9: Civic and Political Participation

- The Role of Citizens
- Voting
- Further Political Participation
- Wrap-Up: Civic and Political Participation

Unit 10: Semester 2 Review and Exam

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