



Alignment Document
State of Nebraska and Aventa Learning Civics

Civics
2005-2007 Benchmark Blueprint

| Strand | Standards | Benchmarks | Unit Name | Course Topic Description |
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| 12.3 The Governments and Economies of the United States and Nebraska | 12.3.1 Students will compare historical forms of democratic governments that influenced the United States Constitution of 1789. | 12.3.1.1 Describe forms of democracy that existed in ancient Greece and Rome. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Double Lives of the American Citizen |
| | | 12.3.1.2 Describe the constitutional monarchy in Great Britain. | Foundations of American System | William of Orange and Mary |
| | | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | 12.3.1.3 Describe governments in early American colonies. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Double Lives of the American Citizen |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The American idea of constitutional government. Where did it come from? |
| Foundations of American System | The Declaration of Independence | | | |
| Foundations of American System | Ideals of the Constitution: Consent of the Governed | | | |
| Foundations of American System | Charters of the Virginia Company of London | | | |



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| | | | Foundations of American System | Virginia Declaration of Rights |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom |
| | | 12.3.1.4 Describe governments in early United States in the 18th century. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Looking for the meaning: "The Rule of Law" |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Alternative Ways of Organizing Constitutional Governments |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Declaration of Independence |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Articles of Confederation |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Limitations of the Confederation |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment will fail |
| | 12.3.2 Students will identify examples of fundamental United States political principles contained in the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Federalist Papers, Common Sense, and the United States Constitution. | 12.3.2.1 Examine Locke, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Blackstone, Jefferson, Paine, and Machiavelli's theory of government as described in The Prince. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Politics! Politics! Everywhere: Is there Meaning Anywhere? |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Social Contract |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The American idea of constitutional government. Where did it come from? |
| | | 12.3.2.2 Describe constitutionalism, limited government, rule of law, republicanism, and democracy. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Rule of Law |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Civil Society |

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| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Limited and Unlimited Government |
| | | | City Government | Home rule |
| | | | Foundations of American System | John Locke |
| | | 12.3.2.3 Identify how the political ideas of the Enlightenment and the ideas of religion affected the founders of the United States. | Foundations of American System | Writing the Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Delegates to the Constitutional Convention |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Supporting the Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Bill of Rights |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Constitution Is Ratified |
| | | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| | | 12.3.2.4 Define sovereignty and consent of the governed. | Foundations of American System | Consent of the Governed |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Thomas Hobbes |
| | | | Foundations of American System | John Locke |
| | | 12.3.2.5 Describe separation of powers, federalism, and checks and balance. | Foundations of American System | Checks and Balances |

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| | | | Foundations of American System | The United States as a Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | A Federal System |
| | | | State Government | Division of Powers |
| | | | City Government | How Governments Work Together |
| | | | City Government | Division of Powers |
| | | 12.3.2.6 Compare the Declaration of Independence and "Common Sense." | Foundations of American System | Ethics of American Government |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Declaration of Independence |
| | 12.3.3 Students will analyze the significance of amendments to the United States Constitution. | 12.3.3.1 Identify factors, e.g., the conflicts they addressed and the reasons for their adoption. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedoms |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Bill of Rights |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Amendment Process |
| | | 12.3.3.2 Analyze fundamental liberties, rights, and values outlined by the United States Constitution. | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | | Foundations of | Goals of the Constitution |



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| | | | American System | |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | 12.3.3.3 Identify various factors addressed by the constitution, e.g., religion, speech, press, assembly and petition, due process, equality under the law, individual worth and dignity, and majority rule and minority rights. | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional Government Origins |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | | Foundations of | King John and Magna Carta |



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| | | | American System | |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitutional government |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | 12.3.4 Students will evaluate and summarize landmark Supreme Court interpretations of the United States Constitution and its amendments. | 12.3.4.1 Describe how Marbury v. Madison and McCulloch v. Maryland affected the Constitution. | Foundations of American System | Goals of the Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Change or the Experiment Will Fail |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Dynamic/Flexible Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | King John and Magna Carta |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Origins of the Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | American Constitutional |

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| | | | American System State Government Civic Life, Politics, and Government Civic Life, Politics, and Government Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Government Origins State Constitutions Constitution Constitutional government The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | 12.3.4.2 Examine federal civil and voting rights since 1950's, e.g., Brown v. Board of Education, demonstrations leading to desegregation, reapportionment, and voting rights legislation. | Political Parties | State Qualifications for Voting |
| | | 12.3.4.3 Explain current patterns and evaluate the impact of Supreme Court decisions on domestic policy issues. | State Government | Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement |
| 12.3.5 Students will analyze the fundamental concepts and challenges to democracy by using writing, discussion, and debate skills. | 12.3.5.1 Explain equality of all citizens under the law. | City Government | Home rule | |
| | 12.3.5.2 Examine worth and dignity of the individual. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Citizen's "Civic Life": Duties and Responsibilities | |
| | 12.3.5.3 Debate majority rule and minority rights. | Foundations of American System | Ethics of American Government | |
| | | Foundations of American System | Ideals of the Constitution: Consent of the Governed | |
| 12.3.5.4 Identify individual freedoms. | Foundations of American System | The United States as a Republic | | |
| | Foundations of | The Declaration of Independence Ethics of American government | | |



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| | | | American System | |
| | | 12.3.5.5 Explain the necessity of compromise. | Foundations of American System | Writing the Constitution |
| | | | Foundations of American System | A Stalwart New Country |
| | | | State Government | Division of Powers |
| | | 12.3.5.6 Analyze individual rights v. public interests. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Double Lives of the American Citizen |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Citizen's "Civil Life": Duties & Responsibilities |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | What is government? Why are government and politics necessary? |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Nature and Purposes of Constitutions |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The American idea of constitutional government. Where did it come from? |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Declaration of Independence |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Ethics of American Government |
| | 12.3.6 Students will analyze the structure, and function of the United States national governments and its relationship to state governments. | 12.3.6.1 Describe the organization, and authority of each branch. | Foundations of American System | Checks and Balances |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Three Branches: Executive |

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| | | | Foundations of American System | Three Branches: Judicial |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Three Branches: Legislative |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The United States as Republic |
| | | | State Government | Unicameral House |
| | | 12.3.6.2 Examine the principles of federalism, e.g., concurrent, delegated, and reserved powers. | Foundations of American System | A Federal System |
| | | | State Government | Division of Powers |
| | | 12.3.6.3 Examine separation of powers, and checks and balances. | Foundations of American System | Checks and Balances |
| | | 12.3.6.4 Explain procedures for constitutional amendment, e.g., Article IV. | Foundations of American System | The United States as a Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | The Amendment Process |
| | | 12.3.6.5 Identify specific policies related to foreign affairs, civil rights, and economics and the budget. | Foundations of American System | The United States as a Republic |
| | | | Foundations of American System | A Federal System |
| | | 12.3.6.6 Identify how political parties, interest groups, the media, individuals, and government institutions influence public policy. | Role of Political Parties | Political Party Finances |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Party Committees |
| | | | Role of Political | Third Parties |

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| | | | Parties | |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | The Democratic and Republican Parties |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| | | 12.3.6.7 Describe levels of taxation and the expectation of public services. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Citizen's "Civic Life": Duties and Responsibilities |
| | | | Foundations of American System | A Federal System |
| | | | State Government | Division of Powers |
| | | | State Government | Concurrent Powers |
| | 12.3.7 Students will analyze structure and function of Nebraska state and local governments. | 12.3.7.1 Describe the organization and authority of each branch. | State Government | State Supreme Court |
| | | | State Government | Appeals Courts |
| | | | State Government | County Courts |
| | | | State Government | The State Executive Branch |
| | | | State Government | General Trial Courts |
| | | | State Government | Other State Executive Officials |
| | | | State Government | Unicameral House |
| | | | Foundations of American System | Three Branches: Executive |
| | | 12.3.7.2 Explain procedures for state constitutional and local charter amendments. | State Government | State Constitutions |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |



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| | | <p>12.3.7.3 Explain how Nebraska's legislative, executive, and judicial institutions make public policy, e.g., legislation, regulations, executive orders, and judicial review.</p> | <p>State Government State Government State Government State Government State Government State Government State Government Foundations of American System</p> | <p>State Supreme Court Appeals Courts The State Executive Branch General Trial Courts County Courts Unicameral House Other State Executive Officials Three Branches: Executive</p> |
| | | <p>12.3.7.4 Compare Nebraska's unicameral with a bicameral form of government.</p> | <p>State Government</p> | <p>State Legislatures - Qualifications, Terms, and Reimbursement</p> |
| | | <p>12.3.7.5 Identify and distinguish units of local governments in Nebraska, e.g., counties, cities, towns, and regional authorities by analyzing a local public issue.</p> | <p>City Government City Government City Government City Government City Government City Government City Government City Government</p> | <p>City Governments Working Together State Legislatures at Work Commission Government Three Forms of City Government Government Competition Governments/Together-Division of Powers Strong-Mayor Plan Other Forms of Cooperation</p> |



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| | | | City Government | Council-Manager Government |
| | | | City Government | Mayor-Council Government |
| | | | City Government | Cooperation in Education |
| | | | City Government | Weak-Mayor Plan |
| | | | State Government | Local Government |
| | | | State Government | County Governments |
| | | 12.3.7.6 Identify fundamental American political principles in Nebraska constitution, fundamental liberties, rights, and values, e.g., sovereignty, consent of the governed, separation of powers, federalism, and checks and balance. | Foundations of American System | Thomas Hobbes |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Constitution |
| | | | State Government | State Constitutions |
| | | 12.3.7.7 Identify how political parties, interest groups, the media, individuals, and government institutions influence public policy. | Role of Political Parties | Political Party Finances |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Third Parties |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | The Democratic and Republican Parties |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Party Committees |



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| | | 12.3.7.8 Describe levels of taxation and the expectation of public services. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government Foundations of American System State Government State Government | The Citizen's "Civic Life": Duties and Responsibilities A Federal System Concurrent Powers State Constitutions |
| | 12.3.8 Students will describe and explain the election process in the national, state, and local governments. | 12.3.8.1 Describe the organization of political parties and role in the nominating process. | Role of Political Parties Role of Political Parties Role of Political Parties Role of Political Parties Role of Political Parties Role of Political Parties | Local Party Organization Third Parties One-Party Governments Political Party Finances Public Financing Party Committees The Democratic and Republican Parties |
| | | 12.3.8.2 Explain campaign funding and spending. | Political Parties Political Parties Political Parties Political Parties | Political Party Organization The National Committee State Central Committees Political Party Finances |

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| | | | Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | 12.3.8.3 Identify the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, public opinion polls, and the use of propaganda techniques. | Political Parties | Political Party Organization |
| | | | Political Parties | The National Committee |
| | | | Political Parties | State Central Committees |
| | | | Political Parties | Local Committees |
| | | | Political Parties | Local Party Organization |
| | | 12.3.8.4 Explain demographic causes and political effects of reapportionment and redistricting, e.g., gerrymandering. | State Government | State Legislatures - Organization |
| | | 12.3.8.5 Describe voter turnout and constituencies of the major political parties | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | The Democratic and Republican Parties |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Party Committees |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Third Parties |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Political Party Finances |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | 12.3.8.6 Explain the development of political parties and Electoral College. | Role of Political Parties | Political Party Finances |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | The Democratic and Republican Parties |

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| | | | Role of Political Parties | Public Financing |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | One-Party Governments |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Party Committees |
| | | | Role of Political Parties | Third Parties |
| | 12.3.9 Students will explain the rights, freedoms, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship in the United States. | 12.3.9.1 Participate in debates, discussions, and readings by analyzing public issues, communicating with candidates, and evaluating performance of public officials and candidates. | Role of Political Parties | Independent Candidates |
| | 12.3.10 Students will compare the United States political and economic systems with those of major democratic and authoritarian nations. | 12.3.10.1 Compare the structures, functions, and powers of political and economic systems. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom |
| | | 12.3.10.2 Describe the rights, responsibilities, and powers of the governed, e.g., grass roots citizens' movements. | State Government | Citizen Action |
| | | 12.3.10.3 Compare the relationship between economic and political freedom. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom |
| | | 12.3.10.4 Explain the allocation of resources and its impact on productivity. | State Government | The States and the Federal Government |
| | | 12.3.10.5 Describe the development and implementation of personal economic decisionmaking skills in a democratic society. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom The Free Enterprise System |
| | 12.3.11 Students will analyze characteristics of the United States | 12.3.11.1 Define labor, capital resources, and natural resources. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and |

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| | free market economy. | | | Economic Freedom |
| | | 12.3.11.2 Describe the role of private ownership, private enterprise, profits, and entrepreneurship. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Free Enterprise System |
| | | 12.3.11.3 Compare the relationship between households, firms, and government. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom |
| | | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Free Enterprise System |
| | | 12.3.11.4 Explain the labor and management relationships. | City Government | Other Forms of Cooperation |
| | 12.3.11.5 Discuss opportunity costs, scarcity, and balancing unlimited wants versus limited resources. | State Government | The States and Federal Government | |
| | 12.3.11.6 Explain supply and demand, and the formation of basic economic questions, including what to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Free Enterprise System | |
| | 12.3.12 Students will analyze the role of the national, state, and local government in the United States economy. | 12.3.12.1 Compare interstate commerce and trade policies. | Foundations of American System | Changes in Government |
| | | | State Government | A Federal System |
| 12.3.12.2 Discuss promoting economic growth by providing favorable conditions for markets. | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom | |
| | | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Free Enterprise System | |
| | 12.3.12.3 Compare providing public goods, services, and protection of the environment. | State Government | The States and Federal Government | |
| | | State Government | Why We Need Local | |

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| | | | | Government | |
| | | 12.3.12.4 Explain the interrelationship of producers, consumers, and government in the United States economic system. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government Civic Life, Politics, and Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom The Free Enterprise System | |
| | | 12.3.12.5 Discuss the impact of fiscal and monetary policy. | State Government | The State Executive Branch | |
| | | 12.3.12.6 Identify the basic economic goals in a free market system, including growth, stability, full employment, and efficiency versus equity and justice. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government State Government | The Relationship of Limited Government to Political and Economic Freedom Why We Need Local Government | |
| | 12.3.13 Students will examine the basic economic indicators and fundamentals of international trade. | 12.3.13.1 Define Gross Domestic Product | | | |
| | | 12.3.13.2 Define Consumer Price Index, employment statistics, and other measure of economic conditions. | Civic Life, Politics, and Government | Capitalism | |
| | | 12.3.13.3 Explain comparative and absolute advantage. | | | |
| | | 12.3.13.4 Discuss exchange rates. | | | |
| | | 12.3.13.5 Explain international trade policies, and the United States relationship to the global economy. | State Government | A Federal System | |