

**BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Grade 12: Civics and Government

This one semester senior elective addresses authority, responsibility, and power as dynamic themes within the American context. The founding documents, principles, and practices, of American government and citizenship are examined in detail.

In addition to the content presented in the course, emphasis will be placed on students' skill development in the literacy areas of reading, writing, speaking and reasoning. The requirements of the course have been written to reflect high expectations of student achievement in reading, writing, speaking, and reasoning.

The student's proficiency will be assessed through a variety of assessment tools which may include: quizzes; notes from readings/discussions/research; multiple choice tests; open response writing; graded discussions; oral and/or visual presentations, both individual and group; primary source analysis; debates; cooperative learning; writing and editing of essays; critiques of historical media; creative writing including poems, song lyrics, newspapers, children's books, and political cartoons; general research; journal writing; daily homework; interviews and/or surveys; departmental final exam.

Participation in National History Day is encouraged for all students in grades 9-12. Information is distributed in October or is available in the Red Social Science office.

CORE KNOWLEDGE:

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

- Purpose and origins of government

BEGINNINGS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

- The thirteen colonies: independence; early government; the American Revolution
- The Articles of Confederation
- The Constitution: creation; ratification; basic principles; structure of the document

CONGRESS AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

- Congress: structure; powers; organization; members
- How a bill becomes a law
- Voting and other issues

THE PRESIDENCY

- The Office of the President
- Chain of Command and the Constitution
- Powers and leadership; style

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE BUREAUCRACY

- The federal bureaucracy
- The Cabinet
- Independent Agencies

COURTS AND THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

- Foundations of the Judicial system
- Judicial review
- Structure of the courts
- The Supreme Court: case load; power; specific cases

POLITICAL BEHAVIOR AND PARTICIPATION

- Elections and campaigns
- Voter behavior

Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Learning standards addressed:

- The Nature of Citizenship, Politics and Government
- Foundations of Government in the United States
- Purposes, Principles, and Institutions of Government in the United States of America
- Roles of Citizens in the United States

**MF/lm
05/19/06**