



Mountain Range High School
 12500 Huron Street • Westminster, CO 80234
 Office: (720) 972-6300 • Fax: (720) 972-6529
<http://www.mountainrange.adams12.org>



Course Name		Principles of Democracy	
Course Description		Principles of Democracy examines the basic principles of the American constitutional, legal, and political systems. Students will explore topics that have immediate impact on their lives and will be able to look at government from a variety of perspectives. The Government program is committed to helping students develop and improve academic skills in reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking skills. (This is a required social studies course for graduation.)	
Unit of Study	Grade Level Expectations/Content Standards	Approximate Time Spent or Percent of time Spent	Date of final assessment
Civics: Roles, Duties, and Responsibilities of Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Engage ethically in civic activities including discussing current issues, advocating for their rights and the rights of others, practicing their responsibilities, influencing governmental actions, and other community service learning opportunities (CSS-1a.) -Describe the roles and influence of individuals, groups, and the press as checks on governmental practices (CSS-1c.) -Analyze and discuss multiple perspectives on issues and options for participating in civic life (CSS-3a. and 3b.) 	3 weeks	Approximately September 14, 2018
Civics: Origins & Purposes of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Describe the origins, purposes and limitations of government and include the contribution of key philosophers and documents (CSS-2a.) -Analyze and explain the importance of the principles of democracy and the inherent competition among values to include but not be limited to freedom and security, individual rights and common good, and rights and responsibilities (CSS-2c.) -Use media literacy skills to locate multiple valid sources of information regarding the foundations, structures, and functions of government (CSS-2e.) -Compare and contrast how different systems of government function (CSS-3f.) 	4 weeks	Approximately October 12, 2018
Civics: Structure & Principles of US Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify the structure, function, and roles of members of government and their relationship to democratic values (CSS-2b.) -Analyze and explain the importance of the principles of the U.S. Constitution and the inherent competition among values to include but not be limited to freedom and security, individual rights and common good, and rights and responsibilities (CSS-2c.) -Use media literacy skills to locate multiple valid sources of information regarding the foundations, structures, and functions of government (CSS-2e.) 	3 weeks	Approximately November 2, 2018



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Civics: Bill of Rights	-Analyze the role of the founding documents and the evolution of their interpretation through governmental action and court cases (CSS-2d.) -Analyze how court decisions, legislative debates, and various and diverse groups have helped to preserve, develop, and interpret the rights and ideals of the American system of government (CSS-2f.) -Evaluate the effectiveness of our justice system in protecting life, liberty, and property (CSS-2g.)	2 weeks	Approximately November 16, 2018
Civics: Development of Public Policy	-Evaluate how individuals and groups can effectively use the structure and functions of various levels of government to shape policy (CSS-1b.) - Identify which level of government is appropriate for various policies and demonstrate an ability to appropriately engage with that level of government (CSS-1d.) -Explain how public policy is influenced (CSS-3c.) -Illustrate how various governments and leaders interact and evaluate how interactions among nations affect domestic and world policies (CSS-3e.)	6 Weeks	End of Semester

Assessment/Practice Proficiency Levels	
4	Advanced Understanding of the Standard
3	Meets the Standard
2	Approaches the Standard
1	Does not Meet the Standard

Course Grade Scale
89.5 - 100
79.5 – 89.4
69.5 – 79.4
59.5 – 69.4
0 – 59.4

Grade Reporting Criteria/Weights	
GRC Content Assessment	45%
GRC Skills Assessment	45%
Practice	10%
Grades are based on achievement of Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations. *Weekly progress grades are posted at https://ic.adasm12.org/campus/portal/adams12.isp	

General Expectations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades are based upon the demonstration of proficiency on units associated within specific grade reporting criteria. Assessment: Assessments are a means to determine a student's mastery and understanding of information, skills, concepts, or processes. Practice: 10% Practice includes opportunities for students to receive clear, specific, and timely feedback as they are developing knowledge and skills, prior to assessments. Assessments will be graded based on teacher/district/state rubrics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple opportunities will be offered on some assessment through the practice of looping content. There will be no multiple opportunities on assessments that are considered finals. Multiple opportunities does not mean endless opportunities. <p>Attendance policy will be followed in the administration of assessments.</p>