

DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL STUDIES	COURSE TITLE: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW HONORS COURSE NUMBER: 127
GRADE(S): 11-12	PRE-REQUISITES (IF ANY): NONE

UNIT	LENGTH	CONTENT	SKILLS	METHODS OF ASSESSMENT	FRAMEWORK STRAND(S) & STANDARD(S)
Introduction to Constitutional Law Historical background	9 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key terms and legal terminology • Identification of major historical factors that led to the establishment of the Bill of Rights • Jefferson's, Hamilton's, and Lee's arguments regarding whether a Bill of Rights was needed 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define terms. • Explain significance of terms and major historical events. • Interpret primary source evidence. • Analyze and evaluate points of view. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test • Discussion • Small group argument assessment • Debate 	History strand LS 1 and 2 Civics and Government strand LS 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
The State and Federal Courts	9 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key terms • Structure, procedures of state and federal courts: trial and appellate levels • Use of precedent • Judicial review • Case disposition options • Judicial activism vs. judicial restraint • Theories of judicial interpretation • Current justices and their judicial philosophies 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and explain significance of terms. • Explain and analyze judicial processes, procedures. • Compare and evaluate judicial philosophies. • Compare differing points of view of justices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test • Essay writing—Supreme Court • Discussion • Extraction of information from videotapes • Small group class presentations 	History strand LS 2 and 3 Civics and Government strand LS 16, 17, 18
The Amendments Numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14 (Entire text of Amendments 1, 4, 9; In Fifth Amendment, double jeopardy, compulsion, and due process clauses; In sixth Amendment, impartial jury and venue, confrontation, and counsel clauses; In Eighth Amendment, cruel and unusual punishment clause; In Fourteenth Amendment, due process and equal protection clauses.)	38 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical context of specific rights • Constitutional issues raised in cases • Supreme court interpretation of language: words, phrases within the relevant amendments • Majority rulings, dissents in a large number and variety of Supreme Court cases • Use of and departure from precedent in selected court rulings • Changing societal and legal values as reflected in court rulings 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain and analyze historical change reflected in court rulings. • Evaluate and debate rulings. • Interpret judicial reasoning. • Simulate a hypothetical case. • Research precedence for simulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test taking • Essay writing—Death Penalty, Search and Seizure • Simulation—Death Penalty • Debates • Extraction of information from videotape: analysis • Quiz • Individual research—library and class materials 	History strand LS 3, 4, 5 Civics and Government strand LS 16, 17, 18, 19