



## River Valley School District New Course Proposal

If you are processing a new course for registration, please complete the form and attach the required documents. All course proposals should first be submitted to the building principal.

Staff Member / Department proposing the new course: Social Studies Dept  
School: RVHS  
Title of Course: CIVICS

Credits and/or Semester or Full Year: .5, Semester  
Grade level(s) to whom the course will be offered: Juniors / Seniors  
How often will this course be offered: Required - every year  
What need will this course fulfill?  
Board require Civics option.

What impact would offering this course have on other grade levels/departments?  
3.5 credits of Social Studies now required.

Please list courses being impacted that the new course is replacing, if any:  
None

Please attach the following:

- A brief course description for the student course handbook (on template)
- Materials needed and cost for initiation of course
- List of drafted units and topics that will be covered
- Within the documentation, please include the academic standards that will be covered in the course.

Approvals: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal: [Signature]  
Building Counselor: [Signature]  
District Administrator: [Signature]  
School Board Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved / Not Approved  
Approved / Not Approved  
Approved / Not Approved  
Approved / Not Approved

Date: 3-11-25  
Date: 3-11-25  
Date: 3-11-25  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Civics – High School Juniors - Required Course**

This Civics course will explore the structure and function of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the importance of civic engagement. Students will examine historical and contemporary political issues, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for active participation in American democracy.

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### **Unit 1: Foundations of American Government**

#### **Standards:**

- **WSS 12.1** – Understand the origins and purposes of government and the U.S. Constitution.
- **WSS 12.2** – Understand the U.S. Constitution's framework and its application.

#### **Key Topics:**

- The Enlightenment and the roots of American democracy
  - The Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention
  - The U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Amendments
  - Federalism and the separation of powers
  - The role of state governments
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### **Unit 2: Branches of Government**

#### **Standards:**

- **WSS 12.3** – Understand the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial).
- **WSS 12.4** – Understand the election process and the role of political parties.

#### **Key Topics:**

- Structure and functions of the Legislative Branch (Congress)
  - Structure and functions of the Executive Branch (President and Bureaucracy)
  - Structure and functions of the Judicial Branch (Supreme Court and Federal Courts)
  - Checks and balances in the U.S. government
  - The role of political parties and interest groups
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### **Unit 3: Civil Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **Standards:**

- Diplomacy, war, and international organizations (UN, NATO)
- Global issues: climate change, human rights, terrorism, global trade
- National security and the balance between freedom and security

## **Unit 7: Introduction to Wisconsin Government**

### **Standards:**

- **WSS.C.12.3:** Describe the structure, powers, and functions of local, state, and national government, including the relationships among levels of government.
- **WSS.C.13.4:** Demonstrate an understanding of how political systems in Wisconsin are shaped by public opinion, political parties, and elections.
- **WSS.C.14.1:** Understand the role of citizens in a democracy, including their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for engagement in civic life at the local, state, and national levels.
- **WSS.C.13.3:** Investigate how law and policy decisions are made and implemented, with a focus on understanding key issues facing Wisconsin.
- **WSS.C.12.5:** Analyze the interaction of state, local, and national governments in shaping public policy.

### **Key Topics:**

- Review the key principles in the Wisconsin Constitution and compare it to the U.S. Constitution.
- Discuss the voting process: voter registration, absentee voting, and how Wisconsin fits into national elections.
- Review Wisconsin's role in presidential elections and the primary system.
- Group discussion on current political issues in Wisconsin.

**Civics - 2025 Fall- Course offering: Potential Costs.**

-The purchase of 25 used textbooks would be an option for this class. Research would suggest that total cost would be under \$250.00