

**New Paltz Central School District
Participation in Government
(Spring Course)**

	CONTENT/ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	SKILLS	ASSESSMENTS
א	<p><u>UNIT 1: Introduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the purposes and principles of government, politics, and law? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roles and limits • What makes a good leader? • How does participating in student government prepare me for citizenship and leadership roles? • How can I effectively participate in government? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique/analyze leadership skills • Write a letter to the editor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing
ב	<p><u>UNIT 2: Local Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does local government obtain its power? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify local politicians – their roles and responsibilities; how they are elected • Should New Paltz have one form of government? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Examine New Paltz government – describe the Town government and the Village government • What are the main issues in New Paltz/Gardiner? • What is the role of the County government? • How is the School District related to local and state government? • What is the role of school in fostering citizenship? • How does the School District function? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Role of the Superintendent and the Board of Education • Why should I participate in the school budget vote and the election of Board of Education members? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview various guest speakers • Debate • Understand points of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Quiz on local government

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h c r a m	<p><u>UNIT 3: State Government</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the United States and New York Constitutions both similar and different? • How does the New York State government work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review concepts of federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances • What is the SAVE legislation and how does it affect me? • How does the census impact the states? • How is New York State’s government similar to and different from other state governments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the effectiveness of state legislation • Debate – form an argument • Understand points of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Quiz on State government
h c r a m	<p><u>UNIT 4: Political Parties</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the political party system enable choice and opportunity for participation? • What are the political parties in New York State and what are their platforms? • What are the pros and cons of so many party choices? • Why would someone seek public office? • What is the process of a political campaign? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a panel presentation • Interview • Evaluate party platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Party Project (Panel presentation of team research on political parties/individual interviews of party members) • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Test

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A p r i l	<p><u>UNIT 5: Voting and Elections</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does my vote count? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting – non-voting ○ Role of the Electoral College ○ Who votes and why (factors) • How can I prepare myself to vote in New York State? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who holds office? • What are the advantages of being the incumbent? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know how to register to vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Quiz on voting and elections
A p r i l M a y	<p><u>UNIT 6: Campaign Finance Reform</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What techniques are used by interest groups to influence government officials? • Should there be more restrictions placed on interest groups? • How do interest groups influence public opinion? • Is campaign finance reform necessary? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate political cartoons • Summarize news articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report out on public meeting • News articles • Community service • Presentation on interest groups
M a y	<p><u>UNIT 7: The Media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the media interact with the government and the government with the media? • How can I become a more effective media consumer? • What is media bias and how can I detect it? • What is the role of the editor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyze the First Amendment – libel, obscenity • How do the media’s presentations of candidates and issues influence public views? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Polling/public opinion/electoral projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write polling questions • Conduct a poll • Detect bias in language and presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Quiz on media and campaign finance reform

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M a y	<p><u>UNIT 8: Obligations of Citizenship</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are our civic obligations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective Service (examine case: Rostker v. Goldberg, 1981) • Filing a tax return (Economics) • Obeying the law • Responding to Jury Duty • How do you register with the Selective Service, and when would you refuse? • Should women be required to register? • What is the importance of the jury in the judicial system? • How do you respond to a call for jury duty? • What are the types of court systems, cases, and juries? • What are the qualifications and disqualifications for service? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate (women in military/draft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing
M a y	<p><u>UNIT 9: Rights of Citizens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the legal rights and responsibilities of the individual in civic life, the work place, school, and international community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Freedom of expression outside of school ○ Rights of the accused outside of school ○ Rights and responsibilities in school ○ Rights and responsibilities of minors in the work place ○ Rights and responsibilities of minors in the family ○ Rights and responsibilities of minors related to medical treatment or public assistance ○ Rights may be different in New York State than in other states • How do my legal rights and responsibilities change as I move from place to place in a globalizing world? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Debate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing • Team panel presentation

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M a y	<p><u>UNIT 10: Citizenship and Immigration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the essential characteristics of citizenship in the United States compared with other countries? • Should resident aliens be entitled to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vote for elected public officials? ○ Hold elected public office? ○ Serve as a juror? ○ Get a driver's license? ○ Get government benefits? ○ Get a free public education? • What rights should belong only to citizens of the United States? • How does someone become a legal resident and a citizen of the United States and New York? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compare US requirements to selected countries • Should immigration quotas be expanded or restricted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public policy on immigration • Should children of illegal immigrants be barred from attaining United States citizenship? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare/contrast viewpoints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News article critiques/issues reports • Classroom activities • Community service • Public meeting attendance and debriefing
M a y - J u n e	<p><u>UNIT 11: Town Board Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are proposals developed? • What are the factors that influence a local government's decision making process? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview a community/government member • Develop a proposal • Present a proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project • Presentation • Final examination