**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** Civics

**Course Number:** 00104

**Course Prerequisites:** NA

**Course Description:** This class is designed to introduce the eighth-grade students to the political processes of the United States. Civics will provide the students with the evolution of those processes and the basic organization of our government. The students will understand the roles of local, state, and federal government in citizens’ lives. A deeper knowledge of the Constitution as the foundation of the United States’ government and the Bill of Rights as our basic freedoms will be explored. There will also be exploration of topics such as the importance of laws, civil rights and our court system. This course introduces our students to the importance of being engaged in good citizenship through service projects and the political process. The course will end with an introduction to our economic system. District marking period assessments are required.

**Suggested Grade Level**: Grade 8

**Length of Course:** Two Semesters

**Units of Credit:** None

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:**

CSPG 59 Social Studies

CSPG 52 Middle Level Social Studies

CSPG 35 Citizenship Education

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/Staffing%20Guidelines/Pages/default.aspx)

**Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department:** [x] Yes [ ] No

**WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Course Level:** Academic

**Mark Types:** Check all that apply.

[x] F – Final Average [x] MP – Marking Period [x] EXM – Final Exam

**GPA Type**: [ ]  GPAEL-GPA Elementary [x]  GPAML-GPA for Middle Level [ ]  NHS-National Honor Society

[ ]  UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average [ ]  GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

**State Course Code**: 04161

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](https://nces.ed.gov/forum/sced.asp), download the Excel file for *SCED*, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and chose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:**

**Title:** *Civics*

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**ISBN #:**  Book: 9780544917132; Digital: 9780358553533

**Copyright Date:** 2018

**WCSD Board Approval Date:** 04/12/2021

**Supplemental Materials:** The DBQ Project; iCivics; IXL; Brainfuse; Content specific videos/video clips from the HMH textbook, Swank, YouTube, PBS or other WCSD approved source

**Curriculum Document**

**WCSD Board Approval:**

**Date Finalized:** 5/22/2023

**Date Approved:**  6/12/2023

**Date Revised:** 6/10/2024

**Implementation Year:** 2023/2024

**SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT AND CONCEPTS**

**Marking Period 1**

Foundations of Democracy

* Citizenship
* Types of Government
* The Need for Government
* Influences on Our Government
* Creating the Constitution

**Marking Period 2**

Foundation and Functions of Our Government

* Democratic Freedoms
* The Three Branches
	+ Legislative
	+ Executive
	+ Judicial

**Marking Period 3**

Functions of Federalism

* Foreign Relations
* State Government
* Local Government
* Financing Government

**Marking Period 4**

Citizens in the Political World

* Political Parties
* Voting and Election
* Public Opinion
* Media Influence
* Citizens Role in Society

US Economy and the World

**Standards/Eligible Content and Skills**

| **Performance Indicator** | **PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content** | **Marking Period Taught**  |
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| Describe what it means to be an American citizen. | 5.1.8.A,C5.2.8.A | MP1 |
| Examine who can be an American citizen. | 5.1.8.C,D,E5.2.8.A8.1.8.A,B | MP1 |
| Determine and evaluate the diversity of the American population. | 5.1.8.C6.2.8.A6.5.8.A7.1.8.A7.3.8.A8.3.8.A | MP1 |
| Describe how diversity has affected American society. | 5.1.8.A,C,D,F5.2.8.B5.3.8.G,H8.1.8.A8.3.8.C,D | MP1 |
| Interpret the duties and responsibilities of citizens. | 5.1.8.D,E5.2.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Identify and explain the various types of government. | 5.1.8.B5.3.8.J7.3.8.A8.4.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Identify what distinguishes a democracy from other forms of government. | 5.1.8.A-D5.2.8.A-D5.3.8.J6.3.8.C,D7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.4.8.A,C,D | MP1 |
| Analyze ways in which government affects citizens. | 5.1.8.A,B,F5.3.8.C,D,I5.4.8.A-C6.1.8.B6.2.8.D6.3.8.B-D6.4.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.4.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Determine and describe the purpose of government. | 5.1.8.A,C5.3.8.C,I5.4.8.A-C6.3.8.A-D7.1.8.B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.3.8.A,C8.4.8.A,C | MP1 |

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| Analyze and explain the ideas that influenced early colonial governments.  | 5.1.8.A,B6.2.8.F,G6.3.8.A6.4.8.A7.1.8.A7.3.8.A8.3.8.A-D8.4.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Justify the arguments written in the Declaration of Independence. | 5.1.8.A,C,D8.1.8.A,B8.2.8.A,B8.3.8.A-D8.4.8.C,D | MP1 |
| Identify the weaknesses of the nation’s first government. | 5.1.8.B,C5.2.8.C5.3.8.C,I6.3.8.C8.1.8.A8.2.8.A,B8.3.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Identify and explain the ideas about government the delegates to the Constitutional Convention borrowed from Great Britain. | 5.1.8.A,C,D8.1.8.B8.2.8.A,B8.4.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Compare and contrast the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists and describe how they resolved their differences. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.D,H8.1.8.A8.3.8.A,C,D | MP1 |
| Analyze and describe the compromises that were made about representation. | 5.2.8.B-D5.3.8.G7.3.8.A8.1.8.B8.3.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Explain how the US government became stronger under the Constitution. | 5.1.8.A,C-E5.2.8.A-D5.3.8.A6.3.8.B8.1.8.A8.3.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Distinguish the purpose of each of the principles within the Constitution. | 5.1.8.C,D5.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.A-D | MP1 |
| Explain why the Constitution is called a “living document.” | 5.1.8.C,D5.2.8.B,D5.3.8.A8.2.8.A,B8.3.8.A-D8.1.8.A,B | MP1 |
| Analyze the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. | 5.1.8.A,C,D5.2.8.A-D5.3.8.C8.1.8.A8.3.8.B | MP2 |

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| Compare and contrast the Federal and state powers. | 5.1.8.E5.3.8.A-C7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.B,C | MP2 |
| Identify and explain why there must be some limits on individual rights. | 5.1.8.A-D5.2.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.D | MP2 |
| Determine and explain which civil liberties are protected by the first amendment of the Bill of Rights. | 5.1.8.C,D,E5.2.8.A7.3.8.A8.3.8.B,C | MP2 |
| Determine and explain which civil liberties are protected by the Bill of Rights, particularly the 2nd – 10th amendments. | 5.1.8.C,D,E5.2.8.A7.3.8.A8.3.8.B,C | MP2 |
| Examine how the Bill of Rights places limits on the power of government. | 5.1.8.C,D,E5.2.8.A5.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.3.8.B,C | MP2 |
| Evaluate reasons for the creation of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. | 5.1.8.A,D5.2.8.A-D7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.A-D | MP2 |
| Identify which amendments extended Americans’ voting rights and explain the impact these extended rights had on our country. | 5.1.8.A,E5.2.8.A,D5.3.8.B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.3.8.A-D | MP2 |
| Analyze the continuing challenge of citizens in protecting their own rights. | 5.1.8.A5.2.8.A,B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.A-D | MP2 |
| Determine and explain the important duties and responsibilities of US citizens. | 5.2.8.A-D8.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Analyze and explain the organization of Congress. | 5.1.8.C5.3.8.A,D7.1.8.A8.3.8.A,B | MP2 |
| Compare and contrast the qualifications, terms, duties, and benefits of a representative and a senator. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A-D5.4.8.B6.5.8.A7.1.8.A | MP2 |
| Describe the major congressional leadership posts and explain how they are filled. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.D | MP2 |
| Describe how Congress uses its powers to meet the goals stated in the Constitution. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A-D6.3.8.C8.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Explain how limits on the power of Congress protect the rights of citizens. | 5.1.8.C5.2.8.C5.3.8.A | MP2 |
| Analyze the legislative process of how a bill works its way through Congress. | 5.3.8.A,B8.3.8.D | MP2 |
| Explain the President’s role in the lawmaking process. | 5.3.8.A.B8.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Explain the qualifications, terms, and benefits of the president. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D6.5.8.A | MP2 |
| Examine how the executive branch is organized. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Explain the order of presidential succession. | 5.2.8.A5.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Describe the President’s role as head of the executive branch. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Identify and describe the president’s legislative influence and judicial powers. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D6.3.8.B8.3.8.A | MP2 |
| Identify and explain the purpose of the Executive Office of the President. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,C,D5.4.8.B | MP2 |
| Examine the roles and duties of the federal bureaucracy.  | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A-D8.3.8.A,C,D | MP2 |
| Explain the need for laws and a legal system. | 5.1.8.A,C5.3.8.C | MP2 |
| Examine how laws guarantee equal justice for all citizens. | 5.1.8.D,A,D,E5.3.8.B,C8.3.C.A,B | MP2 |
| Describe the role of the courts in our legal system. | 5.3.8.A,C,F8.1.8.A8.3.8.A,D | MP2 |
| Explain the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, federal courts, and state courts. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.F7.1.8.B | MP2 |
| Identify how the judicial nomination process works and how a justice is selected to be a member of the Supreme Court. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D,F,H8.3.8.A | MP2 |
| Analyze the importance of judicial review. | 5.1.8.E5.3.8.A8.3.8.A-D | MP2 |
| Identify the roles of the executive and legislative branches in foreign policy. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A5.4.8.B,D6.3.8.D | MP3 |
| Describe how the United States has met the challenges of global security and the global economy. | 5.4.8.A-D6.3.8.D7.1.8.A,B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.4.8.A-D | MP3 |

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| Describe the United Nations and how it tries to improve life for all people. | 5.1.8.A,F5.4.8.A-D6.4.8.C7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.4.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Describe how US foreign policy developed in the early years of the nation. | 5.4.8.A-D6.3.8.B,D6.4.8.B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.3.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Explain the origins of the Cold War and describe how it affected US foreign policy. | 5.1.8.F5.4.8.A-D6.1.8.B6.2.8.E6.3.8.B,D6.4.8.A-D7.1.8.A,B7.3.8.A8.1.8.A,B8.4.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Identify recent world events that have caused US foreign policy to change. | 5.2.8.B5.4.8.A-D6.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.4.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Describe the powers of the states. | 5.1.8.E5.3.8.A-C6.3.8.B,C | MP3 |
| Compare and contrast the Pennsylvania state constitution with the United States Constitution. | 5.1.8.C-E5.3.8.A8.2.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Analyze the need for balance between the national and state government. | 5.1.8.E5.3.8.A,C | MP3 |
| Describe how state legislatures are organized. | 5.3.8.A,D | MP3 |
| Compare state legislatures to the US Congress. | 5.3.8.A-D | MP3 |
| Identify ways in which citizens can influence state governments. | 5.2.8.D5.3.8.E,G | MP3 |
| Describe the powers of the governor. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D | MP3 |
| Compare state executive officials to the President’s executive officials. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,D | MP3 |
| Explain the role of the state executive agencies. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.A,C,D | MP3 |
| Describe how state courts are organized. | 5.3.8.A,F | MP3 |
| Explain how state court judges are selected. | 5.3.8.A,E,F | MP3 |
| Examine Supreme Court rulings on the balance between state and federal powers. | 5.1.8.D5.2.8.C5.3.8.A8.3.8.A,B,D | MP3 |
| Define the term city and identify the services city governments provide. | 5.3.8.C,I7.1.8.A | MP3 |
| Identify various forms of city government and their functions. | 5.1.8.A,B,C5.3.8.C,I | MP3 |
| Explain how local governments are established and why they are needed. | 5.1.8.A,B,C5.2.8.C,D5.3.8.C,D,I | MP3 |
| Analyze the organization of county government and define the main purposes of its levels. | 5.2.8.C,D5.3.8.C,D,I | MP3 |
| Categorize the elected officials of local county governments. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.D8.2.8.A | MP3 |
| Explain why townships and special districts developed, and describe how each function. | 5.1.8.A5.3.8.C,I7.3.8.A | MP3 |
| Determine why villages and boroughs were created, and describe how they operate. | 5.1.8.A5.3.8.C,I7.3.8.A | MP3 |
| Analyze local government services and explain how local governments pay for these services. | 5.3.8.C,G,I6.3.8.C | MP3 |
| Examine how local, state, and federal governments cooperate and compete. | 5.3.8.A-D,I6.1.8.B6.2.8.E,G6.3.8.A-C6.4.8.D7.3.8.A8.2.8.A,D8.3.8.A,D | MP3 |
| Examine how the legislative branch creates the federal budget. | 5.3.8.A,C6.3.8.B,C | MP3 |
| Explain how the government raises money. | 5.3.8.A,C,I6.3.8.C | MP3 |
| Identify the different types of taxes. | 5.3.8.I6.3.8.C | MP3 |
| Define tariffs and explain how they can be used to help the US economy. | 5.3.8.I5.4.8.A6.1.8.B6.3.8.C,D | MP3 |
| Describe how the government manages its money. | 5.3.8.A,I6.3.8.B | MP3 |
| Explain the reasons for national debt. | 5.3.8.I6.2.8.D6.3.8.A-D,H | MP3 |
| Identify the purposes of political parties. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.D | MP4 |
| Examine how political parties formed throughout US history. | 5.2.8.C5.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.A,C | MP4 |
| Differentiate between the two major political parties. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.3.8.C | MP4 |
| Determine the role of third parties in our democracy. | 5.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.3.8.C | MP4 |
| Examine and compare how local, state, and national party committees are organized. | 5.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.2.8.A8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Identify the sources of money for political parties. | 5.2.8.D5.3.8.D,G6.4.8.C8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Explain why Congress regulates political contributions. | 5.3.8.B,C | MP4 |
| Deduce how political parties nominate and campaign for candidates. | 5.3.8.D,G,H7.1.8.A7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.C | MP4 |
| Explain the registration and voting processes. | 5.2.8.A,D5.3.8.D,E,G7.3.8.A8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Describe how and when elections are held, and who may vote in them. | 5.2.8.D5.3.8.C,E,F7.3.8.A8.1.8.A8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Identify factors that help people win elections. | 5.1.8.F5.2.8.C,D5.3.8.D,G,H6.2.8.E6.3.8.B,C7.3.8.A8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Determine the purpose of the electoral college. | 5.1.8.B5.2.8.D5.3.8.A,J7.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Explain how public opinion is formed. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.G,H5.4.8.D6.4.8.B7.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Analyze the importance of public opinion to politicians and government officials. | 5.3.8.D,G,H6.4.8.C7.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Identify interest groups and explain their role in the political system. | 5.3.8.G6.4.8.C6.5.8.D | MP4 |
| Identify the types of mass media. | 5.3.8.H6.4.8.D | MP4 |
| Determine how the mass media influences politics and government. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.H5.4.8.D6.4.8.D8.3.8.C | MP4 |
| Assess the importance of the media in election campaigns. | 5.1.8.F5.3.8.H6.4.8.C8.1.8.A,B | MP4 |
| Describe the modern American family as well as laws governing family units. | 5.2.8.A5.3.8.B6.4.8.B8.3.8.A,C | MP4 |
| Analyze the benefits of attending school. | 5.2.8.A5.3.8.C,I6.3.8.A8.1.8.A | MP4 |
| Recognize the different types of US communities. | 6.4.8.A7.1.8.B7.3.8.A8.3.8.A,C,D | MP4 |
| Explain how citizens can serve their communities. | 5.2.8.A-D8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Analyze how good citizenship is related to developing good communities. | 5.2.8.A-D8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Explain why communities need laws and regulations. | 5.1.8.A,C8.1.8.A | MP4 |
| Identify the kinds and causes of crime. | 5.1.8.A6.1.8.B,D | MP4 |
| Describe the different criminal procedures. | 5.1.8.A,E5.2.8.A,B5.3.8.F | MP4 |
| Interpret the duties and responsibilities of citizens. | 5.1.8.D,E5.2.8.A-D8.3.8.A | MP4 |
| Assess citizens’ responsibility to other citizens. | 5.1.8.D5.2.8.A | MP4 |
| Compare and contrast the characteristics of the various economic systems. | 6.1.8.B,C6.2.8.A,G7.3.8.A8.4.8.C | MP4 |
| Summarize the US economic system. | 6.2.8.B,E,F,G6.5.8.F8.3.8.A,C,D | MP4 |
| Examine factors that affect the US economy. | 6.1.8.A6.2.8.C,D,F6.3.8.B-D6.4.8.A,C,D6.5.8.A-D,H7.3.8.A8.3.8.D | MP4 |
| Explain the government’s role in the US economy. | 6.3.8.B-D8.3.8.D | MP4 |
| Explain why countries trade with one another. | 5.4.8.A-D6.4.8.A-D7.3.8.A8.4.8.D | MP4 |
| Identify how international trade affects jobs and consumers. | 5.4.8.A6.3.8.D7.3.8.A8.4.8.D | MP4 |
| Employ analytical skills to evaluate primary and secondary source documents. | 8.1.8.B | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Cite specific text evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. | CC.8.5.6-8.A | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions. | CC.8.5.6-8.B | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Identify key steps in a text’s description of a process related to history/social studies. | CC.8.5.6-8.C | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies. | CC.8.5.6-8.D | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally). | CC.8.5.6-8.E | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author’s point of view or purpose. | CC.8.5.6-8.F | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts. | CC.8.5.6-8.G | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text. | CC.8.5.6-8.H | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic. | CC.8.5.6-8.I | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.  | CC.8.5.6-8.J.  | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content. | 8.1.8.CCC.8.6.6-8.A | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes. | 8.1.8.CCC.8.6.6-8.B | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. | 8.1.8.CCC.8.6.6-8.C | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. | CC.8.6.6-8.D | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently. | CC.8.6.6-8.E | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration. | CC.8.6.6-8.F | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. | CC.8.6.6-8.G | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research. | 8.1.8.BCC.8.6.6-8.H | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. | CC.8.6.6-8.I | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to analyze the cultural landscapes and political patterns of areas in the US and the world to interpret past, present and future civic activities. | 7.1.8.A,B7.3.8.A | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Describe the influence of mass media on government.  | 5.3.8.H | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |
| Describe how mass media influences our view of international events. | 5.4.8.D | MP1MP2MP3MP4 |

**ASSESSMENTS**

**PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

**Effective formative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Journal Entry
* Entry/Exit Ticket
* Thinking Map
* Verbal Explanation
* Observation
* Artifacts
* Reflection/Summary
* Quiz

**Summative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

**Effective summative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

* Writing a Paper/Essay
* Performance Tasks
* Project
* Tests
* Portfolio