

**UNIT 7: THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS CONSTITUTION**

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 60px; height: 60px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto 20px auto;"> <p><b>Focus</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px;"> <p>Understand the structure, function, and powers of the three branches of Florida's state government, focusing on their interdependence and interactions with various levels of government and its citizenry.</p> </div>	<p><u>INTEGRATED COURSE STANDARDS:</u></p>	<p><u>RESOURCE OPTIONS:</u></p>
<p><u>VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS:</u></p> <p>Federal System          Reserved Powers          Concurrent Powers          Grants-in-Aid          Unicameral          Bicameral          Census          Apportion          Malapportionment          Line Item          Veto          Commute          Parole          Justice of the Peace          Magistrate          Court          Plaintiff          Defendant          Felony</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>UNIT OBJECTIVES/MAJOR TOPICS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relate the concept of <i>federalism</i> to the state government of Florida.</li> <li>2. Understand the concept of <i>federal supremacy</i>.</li> <li>3. Explain the importance of Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution as it applies to Florida state government.</li> <li>4. Examine the Florida Constitution and the branches of state government.</li> <li>5. Understand the process by which a bill becomes a law in the Florida Legislature.</li> <li>6. Appraise Florida's diverse political identity.</li> <li>7. Identify prominent governmental officials including Governor, Legislators, and Justices etc.</li> <li>8. Develop a plan to resolve a state public policy issue by examining alternative solutions, identifying the appropriate level of government responsible for the problem, and analyzing possible outcomes of working with government leaders and resources to address the issue.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Civics Today: Citizenship, Economics and You</i> textbook Chapter 12 and teacher supplements</li> <li>• <i>American Journey</i> textbook (Florida Handbook Section)</li> <li>• <i>Project Citizen</i></li> <li>• State Website <a href="http://www.myflorida.gov">www.myflorida.gov</a></li> <li>• Online Sunshine Site – Legislative Website <a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us">www.leg.state.fl.us</a></li> <li>• State Information: netstate.com</li> <li>• <a href="http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/">http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/</a>– Reading Skills, clip art, videos, music.....</li> <li>• Local Contacts</li> <li>• Tour of Historic Capitol Building – Jane Brightbill – Visitor Services 487-1902</li> <li>• Tour of Capitol Building, Supreme Court, DCA, Museum of Florida History (Gray Building)</li> <li>• State Statutes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1003.42 (e) – Elements of Civil Government</li> <li>○ 1003.42 (l) – Florida History</li> <li>○ 1003.42 (h) – African-American Contributions</li> <li>○ 1003.42 (q) – Contributions of Women</li> <li>○ 1003.42 ( p) – Hispanic Contributions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ongoing Integration of Units 9, 10, 11</li> </ul>

**IMPLEMENTATION METHODS & APPLIED ACTIVITIES:**

- Suggested Activities
  - State Constitution Scavenger Hunt
  - Create State Govt. handbook (Intro to state government, Explain 3 branches, How a bill becomes law, State Judicial System, Issue Essay)
  - Create a flow chart of a "How a Bill Becomes a Law" in Florida
  - Describe and debate issues & bills currently in the state legislature
  - PowerPoints – Photos, maps, charts and graphs of "the People of Florida" (include prominent women, African-American, and Hispanic people and their contributions)
  - Graphic Organizers
  - Identify examples of intergovernmental (Federal and other states) cooperation and disputes
  - Discuss specific state agencies and organizations and their roles in government and policy (i.e. who works to save the manatee, Florida Regional Minority Business Council jobs, Florida League of Women Voters, FEA )
  - Compare/Contrast the Federal Government/Constitution with that of the State of Florida
  
- Simulations
  - *Project Citizen* – affecting public policy – select and issue and "make a change"
  
- Discussion Topics
  - Understand the impact of Florida voters on Florida law and its Constitution (amending)
  - Florida History/Identity Discussions – who we are (past, present and future) – census information – demographics of Florida - impact
  
- Guest Speakers
  - Identify and communicate with appropriate State Government officials concerning particular issues of public policy
  - Tour Capitol Buildings, DCA, Florida Supreme Court, Museum of FL History - complete the "Florida: Search and Discover" scavenger hunt at the Old Capitol bldg
  
- Videos