

American Government Syllabus
Mary Beth Clayton
2022-2023

Contact Information

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The best time to contact me with no students is during 1st or 8th period planning.

*If you email me I will most likely be able to respond the same day!

Course Description

This course examines the structures of government, at both federal and state levels, in the United States. The balance and separation of powers within the U.S. government, and the powers inherent to each branch (executive, legislative, and judicial), are emphasized throughout the majority of the course. Democratic values and responsible participation in the community and government are stressed. The United States' political and economic roles in the global community are analyzed. Basic principles inherent in the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights are covered in detail.

Course Objectives

ACOS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

- Philosophical origins of American Government
- First and Second Continental Congress
- The Constitution
- National and State Governments
- Expansion of suffrage
- Local, state, and national Elections
- Special interest groups and the media
- Political parties
- Three branches of government
- Role of the citizen
- Domestic and foreign policy

CCRS L1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

R1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

W1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10

Course Requirements

Unit Tests
Chapter Quizzes
Weekly worksheets and assignments
Daily Bell Ringers

Discussions
Projects
Research Paper Parts

Grading Scale

Major Grades 65%

Minor grades 35%

Materials

1. Textbook
2. Three Ring Binder (can be combined with other classes)
3. Paper
4. Pencil or pen

Google Classroom codes until Schoology works (don't join until schedules are more settled)

2nd - achuhea

3rd - uazsayr

4th - err46gl

5th - vw4u3w7

6th - 4eiglgr

7th - vrtznzd

Rules

Use common sense at all times.

1. Be Respectful
 - Of yourself, others, and me
 - Politeness and good manners will get you everywhere in this classroom
2. Talk only when it's appropriate
3. Bring your materials to class
 - You're going to need paper and something to write with ALL the time.
4. No phones
 - I'm not even going to explain this one.
5. No PDA
6. Do not touch anything that isn't yours.
 - This includes other people's belongings and mine.
 - I'm super serious about touching my stuff. Don't do it.
7. Use proper language at all times.
 - Nothing rude, crude, or socially unacceptable
 - Cussing is out, Grammar is in
8. Care

Consequences

I know all the above rules will always be followed. Therefore, this section really isn't needed.

Right?

1. "The Look"
2. "The Warning"
3. "The Talk"
4. "The Call"
5. "The Office"

*I reserve the right to skip any of the rules based on the accused action.

Procedures

1. Restroom

Students will sign the clipboard beside the door as they leave the classroom. Students are to sign their name, period, destination, exit time, and return time in the designated areas, take the correct hall pass, and quietly exit the room. Only one boy and one girl out at a time. If the pass is gone please wait until the student using it returns.

2. Bell Ringer - “Previously on...”

You will have 5 to 10 minutes to complete this task before sharing with the class. You should review the information from the previous class. Summarize the information in 6-8 sentences. I will also accept 6-8 bullet points. The goal of this is to refresh your memory and focus on the main topics. Bell Ringer can vary in purpose and requirement. **Always look to the whiteboard.** Bell Ringers MUST BE HANDWRITTEN. No electronic copies will be allowed. This will be a minor grade. I will take them up at the end of the semester.

3. Make Up Work

After being absent, students should always check the calendar and talk with a classmate first. They can fill you in on missed assignments, notes, etc. Once you’ve spoken to a classmate, you should then check the Make-Up Folder located in the front of the classroom. Here you will find any worksheets you missed. Your name will be written on the assignment.

4. Forgotten Materials

It’s inevitable; we all forget things once in a while. Ask around for whatever it is you forgot. If no one has it I will allow you to borrow what you need. Located on the table in the front of the room is a box full of extra pens and pencils and extra notebook paper. Please return the writing utensils so others can use them next time. Any leftover notebook paper, you can always donate!

5. Labeling Papers

Name, assignment title, date, and class period should be written on everything you turn into me. This will allow for easy identification if your paper becomes missing from the class. This will also assist you in staying organized.

7. Late Work Policy

If you do not have an assignment on the day it is due, you need to fill out a “Late Work Sheet” and hand it in just as if you were turning in the assignment. These are located in the back of the make up work folder. 8% will be deducted each day the assignment is late – per the GPR Handbook.

8. Letters of Recommendation

After we get to know each other, I will be more than happy and willing to write you a letter of recommendation or to fill out any form you may need for college or scholarships. I only ask that you give me a week and a half to two weeks’ notice. I want to give you the best letter possible and I cannot plan accordingly if you tell me at the last minute. Also please give me a list of clubs, activities, and other organizations you are a part of so I can include them in the letter as

well.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating:

No cheating will be tolerated. Period. Cheating will result in a zero and your world will explode! There's a difference in group work and cheating and you know the difference.

Plagiarism:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

*Information from Plagiarism.org, check it out for more info.

***ALWAYS CITE!! BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!**

Considered a Class B Offense

Cell Phones

Students are not permitted to use a cell phone or any electronic device in school. Period!

Consequences

Conference with student

Conference with parents

Device may be confiscated on any offense

Parent/Legal Guardian shadowing If a violation of this rule also violates other Class B and/or C offenses, other consequences will be imposed

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Calendar

Please check the [Google calendar](#) CONSTANTLY. I will keep this calendar up-to-date as much as possible.

I hope to stick to these all the dates given, however, they are **TENTATIVE** and are subject to change (and I'm sure they will).

Important Projects

These projects are going to take more than a couple of hours to complete, hence why I'm telling you now. My main goal in this course is to better prepare you for college. Professors will only give you the end date and it's up to you to schedule the appropriate time to complete the assignment. The night before is not the correct time. I hope to instill upon you practices that will assist you in scheduling the appropriate time frame to complete assignments. See calendar on school website for the dates of each assignment.

Research Paper

In any college classroom you will be expected to complete a lengthy research paper. In this class we will prepare a 10 page research paper. Before you panic, we're going to work on this together. It will not all be due at once. The paper will be broken into several smaller assignments due periodically throughout the semester. We will discuss each of the small parts and steps which you must take to write an A+ paper. You will have time to research and work on your paper during class time. We will walk through every step together so that when it comes time to write a research paper in college you are fully prepared. There is no excuse not to do great on this project. The trick is to keep up with your dates and do your research. Each assignment is a 100 point grade. If you read this section carefully, you will note we are not actually writing the paper (so take back all the mean things you just said to me in your head!). We will be going over each step of writing a history paper, so that when the time comes in college you will be ready. This includes learning Turabian citation.

Memorization of Presidents

You will need to memorize all the Presidents of the United States in order. They will be broken into 3 quizzes and one test.

Note Taking

Taking notes is essential to retaining information. It has been scientifically proven that taking handwritten notes is the best way to learn. I strongly encourage you to take notes as we discuss each PowerPoint. The PowerPoints will be available online, however, that is not an excuse to sit and do nothing during class. 10 bonus points will be awarded to each student that has notes for EACH PowerPoint presentation within a unit. Notes do not have to be word for word from the PowerPoint, but should show effort and attention, that means significant notes for each chapter. These bonus points can be used on major or minor grades. Notes will be taken up right before the test is handed out. Notes will not be accepted after the test has been given out. Notes cannot be made up if a student is absent on test day.

Civics Graduation Test

Per state law, you are required to take and pass a Civics test before graduation. This test is 100 multiple choice questions and will be completed in Government/Economics class throughout your senior year. Topics cover US History, US Government, and US Geography. You must make a 60 to pass. You can take the test as many times as necessary. After the initial test, feedback and tutoring will be offered to assist with low performing standards.

Classroom Supplies

Please consider bringing the items listed below! If we don't have them in the classroom, then you can't use them!

Ream of white or colored (any color) paper
Kleenex Tissue (we use A LOT of these!!)

Hand Sanitizer
Clorox Wipes

**United States Government
Fall Semester 2022-2023
Syllabus Awareness Form**

Students:

Please sign below to indicate that you have read this syllabus. Located on the Brew Tech website and in Google Classroom. Please return it to Mrs. Clayton by the end of the week. It will be kept on file.

Student name (print)

Class period

Student signature

Date

Parents/Guardians:

Please sign below to indicate your awareness that your child has reviewed the syllabus in class and discussed it with you. If you would like to request a printed copy, please notify Mrs. Clayton. You may list as many emails as you would like!

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

E-mail is typically the most convenient form of communication for teachers. Parents/Guardians, please neatly print your e-mail address; it will be used for teacher-parent communication purposes only. It will also aid in allowing me to inform you of senior activities and due dates!

Parent/Guardian name

Parent/Guardian e-mail address

Parent/Guardian name

Parent/Guardian e-mail address