

Syllabus: Honors U.S. Government

Mr. Joshua Niswonger

Contact Information

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Remind: text @politico to 81010 if you wish to be updated on any assignments or possible changes.

Teacher website: <http://www.thomas.k12.ga.us/olc/teacher.aspx?s=875>

COURSE LENGTH: One semester

NUMBER OF UNITS: 6

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION: Honors US Government is an introductory course on United States Government and Politics, designed for high school students. While the content of general US government courses varies, this course will focus on the Constitution; political beliefs and behaviors; political parties, interest groups, and mass media; the Congress, presidency, bureaucracy, and the federal courts; public policy; and civil rights and liberties. Course material will be taught through a variety of means including: lecture and note taking, class discussion, selective reading, group and individual projects, and current events.

COURSE OUTCOMES: These are the general goals:

1. Prepare students for the responsibilities of citizenship including voting and positive participation in the local community
2. Analyze the history and interpretations of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights
3. Examine the roles, powers, and relationships between formal and informal institutions in the United States
4. Recognize typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
5. Know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics

REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS: Bring pencil or pen, and a 3-ring binder devoted strictly to Honors Government to class every day. You will be issued a textbook to take home, and a class set will be available at school. Expect about 3-4 hours of homework every week. In addition, essays, projects, and presentations will be assigned on a regular basis. You should not need to study for these. Participation and attendance are extremely important. Students are responsible for turning in all work on time. Late work will receive a deduction in points unless work is missed due to an excused absence or prior arrangements are made with the instructor. **Missed work, including tests, must be made up promptly for credit.**

Please set your binder up with these tabbed divisions:

Honors US Government Binder

These sections must be TABBED and labeled.

- Section 1: Syllabus
- Section 2: Classroom notes (all types)
- Section 3: Essays and projects
- Section 4: Tests, quizzes, graded assignments
- Section 5: Teacher handouts, including primary source readings

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Class meets every day

GRADING: Grades are determined by the percentage of total course points earned by the student

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
Below 70%	F

Daily Grades(homework, classwork):	20%
Project/Quizzes:	10%
Unit Assessments:	50%
Benchmark/SLO	20%

TEXTBOOK: MaGruders American Government

OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES: Supplemental selected readings including Supreme Court cases, news articles, and primary source documents.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT:

If you are absent from class **for any reason**, excused or unexcused, it is your responsibility to check with me for missing assignments upon your return. **If you miss a test/quiz, it must be made up promptly.** You need to schedule the make-up test with me in person. Remind 101 will be used to inform students of any changes in assignments or due dates.

Cheating: Plagiarism or dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated! This includes turning in information from the Internet as your own work. Consequences of plagiarism include earning a score of “0” on the assignment, involvement of the principal and your parents, possible suspension and/or failure of the course.

Unauthorized Electronic Devices: Cell phones, Ipads, or other tablet device are to be only be used for academic purposes during class time. Students not using it for academic purposes during class time will have the device taken up for the day. A repeated violation of this expectation will result in a written referral and the device will be turned in to the front office for the parent to pick up.

Honors U.S. Government Units

- I. Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government**
- II. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**
- III. Political Beliefs and Behaviors**
- IV. Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media**
- V. Institutions of National Government**
- VI. Public Policy**