

Syllabus: U.S. Government

Contact Information

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COURSE LENGTH: One semester

NUMBER OF UNITS: 6

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION: 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:

- Students need to come prepared every day—pencil, pen, notebook of some type.
- Students will have 3-4 hours of homework per week—readings, discussion boards, etc...
- Every assessment will consist of both a writing and multiple choice section—Quizzes will be short answer, while tests will be a blend of MC and Constructive Response.
- One major task will be due each unit.

Instruction Modifications:

All IEP and 504 instruction methods will be implemented as instructed within the individual student's modifications.

Advanced American Government: Increased academic rigor is integrated into assignments and assessments for this course. Students are expected to complete independent assignments in a timely manner.

Honors American Government: A high level of rigor is integrated into instructional assignments and assessments so students can prepare for AP or college level courses.

US Government Binder

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

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 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 devices 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.

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**