

## **American Government**

**Mr. Holden**

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### **American Government Course Description**

This course will help to inform and equip students to become educated, well informed members of our democratic society. Students will also gain a deeper perspective of the organization of our government, the role of the government in our daily lives, and be exposed to the different perspectives on how the political process works.

### **Course Objectives: American Government**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the origins and principles of the United States system of Government found in the constitution of the United States.
2. Explain how people contribute to the political process as well as explain the differences of beliefs across the political spectrum.
3. Explain the function, responsibilities and powers of the judicial, legislative, and judicial branches
4. Explain how the government affects the lives of its citizens on the local, state, and federal levels.

### **Resources**

United States Government, Our Democracy – by McGraw Hill 2018

### **Grading Policies:**

- Summative assessment 70% (tests, quizzes, projects and papers)
- Formative assessment 30% (homework, classwork).

**Communication:** I am happy to assist students with questions outside of the classroom, and I encourage every student to self-advocate for themselves if they are in need of clarification. The best way to contact me is through my email address at any time of the day. I try to respond to this as quickly as possible.

**Late and Absent Work:** Any academic work turned in late will not receive full credit. Work will be accepted for a maximum of 70%. Work cannot be submitted after the quarter has been completed. Certain assignments may be more time sensitive and cannot be made up.

Excused absence work will fall in line with school policy and will not be considered late. If work is turned in after the grace period given, it will be considered late. All electronic work must also be submitted **before** the class period. (If not it is considered to be late.)

## **IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO MAKE UP MISSING WORK.**

**Cheating- DO NOT DO IT!** If cheating, suspected cheating, or attempted cheating takes place you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and appropriate disciplinary action.\*\*\*  
(Includes talking during a test)\*\*\*

**Plagiarism-** Plagiarism falls under the cheating category. Any text that is borrowed, quoted, or otherwise included from an outside source must be cited or its inclusion is considered plagiarism. If plagiarism occurs, you will receive a zero and will be further dealt with in accordance with school policy. If you do not know what plagiarism is in regards to an assignment, please ask.

### **General Guidelines**

1. You will not be marked tardy if you are in your seat when the bell rings. If you are not in your seat, only a signed note from a teacher will excuse the tardy.
2. Everyone will be better off if only one person talks at a time.
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions, particularly if something seems difficult.
4. Read the material before the assigned class period.
5. Be careful with all classroom materials, especially your books. Take your materials with you after class including garbage, to keep the room clean.
6. Bring your own pens, papers, books, etc. every day.
7. Remember that your performance and behavior in this class is your responsibility and yours alone. A major part of maturity is accepting responsibility without blaming other people.
8. Things happen in life that do not appear to be fair from all perspectives---this classroom is no exception. Not everything will always seem fair to everyone, but part of growing up is learning to understand and deal with it.
9. Not everything in class can necessarily be made up. Please try to be here and complete any absent work as soon as possible.
10. All of you are talented enough to do the assigned work without any help from each other. If you need help with completing an assignment I am more than willing to answer

questions before the assignment is due. “Working together” does not mean sharing answers. All of your work should reflect your own individual expression of the subject matter and should not be rephrased or copied off someone else.

11. In group projects and activities, all members of the group are expected to contribute equally to the overall success of the project.
12. In this room, students are graded on production, not talent. Be prepared to prove yourselves over and over again but always keep in mind that I want you to do well.