

# Course Syllabus - Government

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Welcome to Government. This class is going to be focused on looking through social, economic, political lens of American Government. We will look at the history of government and the evolving process in which it is shaping. We will also compare our government to those around the world. The goal of this class is to allow you to become an informed citizen, my goal is not to push one political party on you. In this class you will be asked to look at current events, write papers, take notes on lectures, work on individual and group projects, create presentations, as well as read and analyze primary and secondary sources.

## Course Materials

Students will need a notebook with paper and a pen/pencil every day. Also students will need a small binder to keep daily work in.

## Grading

Grading Policy: Homework, Classwork, Participation, Tests, Quizzes, and Projects will all be weighted the same but will vary in amount of points each is worth.

- **Grading Scale**
  - A = 93%-100%
  - B = 83% - 92%
  - C = 73%-82%
  - D = 65%-72%
  - F = 64% and below
- **Semester Grade**
  - 1st Quarter 47.5%
  - 2nd Quarter 47.5%
  - Semester Final 5%

Extra Credit: There will not be any extra credit given on an individual basis. All extra credit will be given to the class as a whole. There will be a 60 point maximum per semester and you can choose from the following options for your extra credit:

- Read a historical book or biography (agreed upon with me) and write a 3-4 page analysis of the historical context of the book (60 pts possible) 1 per semester
- Read a current event article at least 1 page in length and write a summary of the article and its context within society today at least 1 page in length (10 pts possible) up to 6 per semester
- Color and label a map from the extra credit bin. Must be neat, legible, and labeled correctly to receive credit. (1 point possible) up to 10 per semester

## **Latework**

Per the student handbook, students are allowed two days to make up an assignment for everyday absent. If after that time or a student is present and does not turn in an assignment, they have 1 week to turn in the work for 25% credit. After 1 week, students will not be able to turn in work late. (extreme expectations may be granted with approval from the teacher)

It is **YOUR** responsibility to get your make-up work, whether you know you will be gone or miss a day. All missed work will be placed in a folder and ready for you to pick up. For extra clarification on the missed assignments or needed help, YOU need to come in on your own time to get that help.

## **Expectations**

For this class to work, the expectation is that your opinion is just as valuable as others so DO NOT ridicule others views/opinions, make any sort of racist, sexual, derogatory, or sexist statement (even if you are trying to be funny). If this happens you will be removed from class immediately and be subject to detentions. This needs to be a “safe” environment where students are able to explore different ideas and values through the scope/lens of others. .

### **Classroom Expectations - STUDENT**

- Be Respectful to Others -
  - Do not ridicule others or their opinions
  - Take care of the classroom
    - Not anyone else's responsibility to clean up after you
    - Snacks and Drinks are a privilege and will be taken away if abused
  - Take care of materials that are not yours
  - Do not steal others ideas
    - They have worked hard on their ideas do not plagiarize them, CITE them.  
This is considered cheating and you will receive a zero for the assignment
- You come in ready to be engaged -
  - Once the bell rings you are wasting my time to get materials
  - 2 Things you can control everyday ATTITUDE and EFFORT - Give BOTH!
- Cell Phones
  - Cell phones are to be put away at all times unless we are using it for class purposes - You have work to do; if your work is all done and you are caught up, you can work on extra credit or work from another class.
  - If you are using your phone in class, the cell phone will be taken and you will be written up and given a detention.