

Materials and Procedures

The study of government requires a great deal of reading. See your copy of the class schedule for reading assignments. Plan your reading carefully. Be sure to **read** and **study** each assignment before the class period for which it is assigned. Your teacher will assume that you have completed these reading assignments – they are necessary for your participation in class discussions and earning high scores on tests.

Class materials

Please bring the following materials to class each day:

- Textbook
- Binder
- Pencil or pen

You should reserve a section of your binder for Government. Keep class handouts and notes together there. Be sure to date and title your notes each day.

Keep all assignments, reports and all class notes together in your notebook. Use these to study for tests.

Assignments

Written work must be neat and legible and include your **first** and **last** name, the **date**, and the **assignment name**. It should be turned in at the beginning of class on the specified due date or emailed as instructed from RenWeb or the class web site. It is a good idea to use pencil, rather than pen, in case you make mistakes and must erase them. Please do not use green ink. Sloppy and/or illegible work will NOT be accepted. Accurate spelling is expected in all written assignments.

Writing projects such as reports must be prepared in MLA format, using double-spaced, 12-point type, with one inch page margins and will often be emailed to your teacher (see the Government web site.) Unless otherwise instructed, use 8½” by 11” notebook paper or printer paper for hard copy assignments.

Late Work

Late homework will be accepted for half credit until one week after it was due. If an assignment has been graded and discussed in class, it is no longer eligible for half credit.

Absences

If you are absent on the day of an announced test, quiz assignment or project, you are expected to turn in or make up the assignment the next class period. If you are absent for multiple days, you will have at least the number of days you were gone to make up the work. Check your folder in the class file box for handouts you missed. Also check my blog on the government web site to see what we have done while you were absent.

Behavior

No food or drink (except water). Please be on time, respect yourself and others and have a positive attitude. We will often work in small groups on projects large and small, so it is important that seniors form a sense of community in which we all work to support one another. A student who disrupts the learning of fellow students may be asked to leave class.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or intellectual theft **WILL** result in 0 credit for the assignment and may result in further disciplinary action. This includes copying from other sources, whether analog or digital.

Tests will be **cumulative** – they will include questions from previous tests. The final test will cover everything we have studied during 1st semester.

Electronic Devices **Electronic devices, including phones, tablets and laptops**, will be used to enrich, expand, and explore in this classroom. Utilizing these devices is a privilege that comes with expectations, rules, and consequences.

Expectations for usage in the classroom:
 Devices will be used to connect to the internet for relevant classroom activities
 Devices will be used to seek information relevant to classroom activities

Rules for usage in the classroom:
 Devices will not be used to text /message for personal and/or social reasons or to play games during class
 Devices will be used responsibly
 Devices will be used only at times and for purposes directed by the teacher

Consequences for misuse:
 Should a student be caught violating the rules above and/or engaging in activities that are obviously inappropriate for mobile device use in the classroom the following will occur:

1st offense: Warning
 2nd offense: Teacher seizes device and contacts parent. Parent must pick up the device from teacher.
 3rd offense: Student is no longer permitted to use device in class

Additionally, the teacher reserves the right to ban any student from electronic device usage in class at any time should the misuse be overwhelmingly inappropriate.

Grading Scale

<i>Percent</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Grade</i>
93+	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	2-59	F

Calculating Grades

On tests, percentages will be based on the highest score in the class. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped in calculating quarter grades.

College Admission

Keep striving for academic excellence. Your GPA will be used to determine college admissions and scholarships. Don't let senioritis throw you off track. Keep your eyes on the prize!

Course Description

The study of U.S. Government allows students to understand the institutions of our government and relate them to their everyday world. Reading and understanding the Constitution is at the heart of the class.

Our learning is organized around ten Content Areas:

- 1 Principles & Values in the Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy
- 2 Rights, limits of rights, and obligations of citizens
- 3 Fundamental values and principles of civil society and the legal rights and responsibilities of adulthood.
- 4 Roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government
- 5 Landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions
- 6 Issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices
- 7 Powers and procedures of national, state, and local governments
- 8 The influence of the media on American political life
- 9 Origins, characteristics and development of different political systems
- 10 The balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state national authority; civil disobedience and the rule of law.

Goal

To help our students become positive, curious and contributing citizens of the United States.

Activities

To accomplish this goal, we will use a variety of activities and resources in class:

- Reading
- Lectures
- Discussions
- Speeches
- Debates
- Research
- Films
- Internet resources
- PowerPoint projects

Sequence

Quarter	Topics	Chapters
1	Fundamentals of Government & Democracy, Origins of American Government, Structure of the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, Federalism, Congress, Presidency, Political Parties	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 16
2	Elections & Voting, Federal Judiciary, Supreme Court, Constitutional Freedoms, Citizenship & Justice, Local Governments, Media	17, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 19