



Greenville Technical Charter High School: 2025-2026

US Government CP

Ms. Cook – ccook@staff.gtchs.org

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:50-3:30

Course Texts

- ***American Government***, National Geographic (students will not be assigned a copy)
- Selected primary source documents, biographies, documentaries, and essays

Course Overview

Government is an introductory course in U.S. government, politics, and civic participation. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

US Government is a **REQUIRED** course to graduate. It is imperative that you take an active role in your learning experience.

Course Topics and Concepts

- Unit 1: Foundations of the American System
- Unit 2: The Constitution and Federalism
- Unit 3: The Legislative Branch
- Unit 4: The Executive Branch
- Unit 5: The Judicial Branch
- Unit 6: Participating in Government
- Unit 7: Government in Action

SC State Government Standards (pages 122-136 cover Government):

<https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/social-studies/standards/2019-south-carolina-social-studies-collage-and-career-ready-standards/>

Course Objectives

There are several objects for this course.

- **Develop Academic Mindsets:** Students will develop positive attitudes and beliefs about themselves as learners in ways that increase their academic perseverance and prompt them to engage in productive behaviors including setting and meeting goals, doing quality work, and seeing it through to completion by seeking support and solutions to overcome obstacles.
- **Master Core Academic Content:** Students will develop and draw from a baseline understanding of knowledge in academic subjects in ways in which they can transfer knowledge to other situations.
- **Learn How to Learn:** Students will direct and monitor their own learning.
- **Think Critically and Solve Complex Problems:** Students will apply tools and techniques gleaned from other subject areas to formulate and solve problems. These will include data analysis and inquiry, creativity, outside-the-box thinking, and persistence.
- **Work Collaboratively:** Students will collaborate in identifying problems and creating solutions as they work on projects and activities.

General Expectations for Successful Learning - The 5 Be's

Be Prompt: Show up to class on time. Be ready for the start of class, including being mentally ready. Use breaks wisely and appropriately, including bathroom and water breaks. Do your homework on time.

Be Prepared: Bring all of your required class materials to class. Come to class with a positive attitude. Come to class ready to learn. Come to class ready to participate.

Be Respectful: Be respectful to everyone in the class: the teacher, other students, and, most importantly, yourself!

Be Responsible: Bring all required materials daily, including any work that must be turned in. Make sure your Chromebook is charged when you come into class.

Be Positive: Bring a positive mindset to class each day. Perfection is not required, but I do expect students to bring their best effort each day.

Materials (Students are required to bring the following to class everyday)

- Chromebook (charged and ready to use for the day)
- Notebook (3-ring to insert and remove papers)
- Pencil or Pen
- Highlighters

Technology

Students are expected to bring a charged Chromebook to class daily. Technology will be used daily with classroom activities. **There will be NO loaner Chromebooks available!** Only GTCHS-issued Chromebooks will be allowed in class. No personal devices including cell phones or personal laptops are necessary.

Grading Policy

Tests/Major Projects – 50%

Quizzes – 25%

Classwork/Homework – 25%

Opportunities for Mastery

- Classwork/homework assignments
 - I do not assign daily homework. However, if class time is wasted and an assignment is not finished when it should be, it becomes homework. Students are encouraged to review notes/vocabulary a few minutes a day.
 - Classwork assignments will be accepted up to TWO DAYS late. 5 points will be deducted for each **school day** late. No work will be accepted after two late days.
- Quizzes
 - Students can retake a quiz ONE TIME.
 - Students who make a 75 or below will be required to retake a quiz.
 - Any student can request a retake if they make above a 75.
- Tests
 - Students who make below a 75 on a test will be required to complete test corrections.
 - Students who make above a 75 may complete test corrections if they request it.
 - Test corrections will be completed on a specific form where students must explain/prove their new answers.

- Projects
 - Projects will be accepted ONE DAY late with no points lost. This will be the next calendar day, not the next class day.
 - Students have up to FIVE DAYS to submit a project late. 5 points will be deducted for each day late. No work will be accepted after five late days.
- NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE QUARTER HAS ENDED.

Absences

All assignments need to be made up within one week of the absence unless otherwise discussed. Assignments not completed within the one-week time limit will be entered as a zero in the gradebook. Students can make up missed quizzes and tests by scheduling a time with me. It is your responsibility to complete missed work in a timely manner.

Classroom Procedures

- Students are expected to come to class prepared and on time.
- Chromebooks should be brought to class every day. They should be charged and ready to use.
- Cell phones will be placed in the Cell Phone Home at the front of the class when entering.
- Students are expected to use class time wisely (working hard, refraining from distracting behaviors, using technology wisely).

Consequences

For issues, the following procedures will be followed:

- First offense - warning from teacher
- Second offense - contact home
- Third offense - student conference
- Fourth offense - referral to administrator

Communication

Parents can leave a voice message, send an email, send in a note, or leave a message with the office. I will check all messages at the beginning and ending of each day. A response to any message can be expected within 24 hours during the week. Communication is VERY important for you and your students' school experience! Please do not hesitate to contact me in any way.