

The Metro High School
US Government Syllabus

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[Schoology Enrollment Code](#): KWMFD-VTBVT

Government: Citizenship and the American System

About This Course:

Welcome to Government! This class will examine the United States system of government, active citizenship and economics as it relates to current events, recent history, and ourselves. This experience is an independent, student-driven course in which students actively apply the knowledge and skills learned in previous grades. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills necessary for active, effective citizenship. The capstone assessment will consist of an issue-based “white paper”, which will serve as a culminating assignment that addresses the service/internship partnership the student will establish and actively participate in during this semester. There is a strong emphasis on college preparation, civic participation, and integration with science and technology.

What You Will Need for this Course:

1. Mead Notebook just like the one [in the link](#). You will need this for your learning targets and your field research.
2. A camera (phone cameras are fine) to document field experiences.
3. Cell phones for communication with teachers during field experiences, be sure to add Mr. Frase’s phone number to your contact list (see number above).
4. Access to professional clothing that is considered a [Level 3, 2, or 1 in this link](#). This dress code will be strictly adhered to for field experiences, students who do not adhere to the professional dress code will not be permitted to go on field experiences during JTerm and must complete an alternative assignment.
5. Students should create a folder on Google Drive labeled “Citizenship and the American System”. All work will be organized into subfolders in this main folder: 5 units and a “White Paper” folder. Please create these folders immediately!

Course Assignments

1. Learning Target Packet (must be completed in field journals)
2. Mid-Term #1 (multiple choice and short answer) January 12th
3. Mid-Term #2 (multiple choice and short answer) January 23rd
4. White Paper Website and Presentation (Government Capstone)- Final Week of Jterm

Late Assignments and Remediation

The completion of the above assignments at mastery is necessary for mastery in the class. Exam remediation will be permitted once the student has completed the learning targets essential for the given exam. White Paper remediation will be permitted but will be dealt with based on each individual's scoring on the white paper rubric. Students will have one week from the due date of a given assignment to complete remediation, if necessary.

Essential Understandings of This Course:

- * What does it mean to be an American Citizen with duties, responsibilities and benefits?
- * How can you positively impact your community through politics?
- * What is the balance between civil liberties and civil order?
- * To what extent should the government have a role in a citizen’s life?
- * What is the structure and role of American Government as outlined in the U.S. Constitution?

Academic Integrity

1. Be sure to give **proper citations** for all work that is not your own or sources of information. **Plagiarism is a serious offense.** Copying websites, texts, or another student's work—or the general idea without giving credit-- is cheating. To be perfectly clear: if any phrase, part of a sentence, quote, or even paragraph structure or flow of ideas can be traced to someone else, THAT is plagiarism and they throw people out of college for it. Any **sending, accepting, copying, sharing**, or any other forms of dissemination of other student's/people's notes or other work is considered cheating. If proof of cheating exists, you will receive a 0 for the assignment and further consequences may exist.

Classroom Policy

1. Please note that all Metro High School policies are followed in this class, as well as class norms and expectations, which can be found on the Social Sciences Department webpage.

2. Metro's two rules will be adherent in our class:

1. Do not do anything to disrupt your educational environment
2. Do not do anything to disrupt the educational environment of others

More specifically, when it comes to others, our classroom will be tolerant of each other and each other's viewpoints. We all come from different backgrounds. We do not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation or handicap with regards to treatment. Harassment and hurtful comments will not be tolerated!

3. If a student has been absent for any reason, he or she will conference with the teacher the day he or she gets back to school. This will not happen during class time.

4. It is the student's responsibility to inquire as to missed work and obtain directions, rubrics etc. as needed. It is **NOT** the teacher's responsibility to make sure that the student has their assignments.

5. Be sure to keep the lines of communication open! If you need special assistance, let the teacher know immediately. Let's plan ahead if extra help or extended time is needed on certain assignments.

6. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact me after school hours regarding their child's progress, which can also be viewed through the PowerSchool or TaskStream websites.

7. If a student's cell phone is visible during school hours, I will take it for the duration of the class until a parent has been notified of the offense.

The Social Science Goals for each Student through the Metro Habits:

1. **Engaged Learner and Critical Thinker**-All students analyze a current local issue, determine how to affect change and implement such change

2. **Inquiring Learner**-Students develop habits of mind associated with social studies. These habits of mind include perspective consciousness, ability to warrant conclusions, and recognition of relatedness/interdependence.

3. **Effective Communicator and Collaborator**-Students develop an understanding of the duties required of-and rewards of being-effective citizens in a democracy. This is done through a classroom requiring active student participation, honors student voice, and reinforces the Metro Habits of Mind.

4. **Active and Responsible Decision Maker**-Students learn personal skills and tools to become more effective decision makers and responsible managers of their own education.

Our classroom will be tolerant of each other and each other's viewpoints. We all come from different backgrounds. We do not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap with regards to treatment. For the record, sexual orientation is included under this statement. Harassment and hurtful comments will not be tolerated!

Metro Early College High School Student Contract

This contract is a condensed version of the syllabus and is implemented to make sure that both students and parents have a clear idea of the goals and expectations of this course.

1. I have read the syllabus
2. I understand that during this semester I have the opportunity to earn 1 credit hour in Social Science course.
3. I understand that if I do not master this course I must attend a recovery course at the end of the term.
4. I understand that no e-mail submissions are accepted.
5. I understand how to find the class webpage and to check assignment due dates, daily class activities, unit overviews, and the status of submitted assignments. If I do NOT understand how to use taskstream, I will come in during office hours so Mr. Frase can show me how to navigate this site.
6. I understand the assignments that are required and their scores will count as part of my final grade. I also understand that I must complete the learning targets at mastery or I can not attempt class exams.
7. I understand our class's late work policy.
8. I understand what plagiarism means and that if I plagiarize work I will earn a zero on the assignment with no opportunity to resubmit.
9. I understand that I am to be on time to class, and will spend class time in a productive **NOT** disruptive manner.
10. I understand that my Social Studies teachers will help me, but I must be proactive in seeking assistance by coming to office hours or setting up other times to meet.
11. I understand that if I do not turn in this contract, none of my work will be scored on powerschool.

Parent Name (Please Print)_____Date:_____

Parent Signature: _____Date:_____

Student Name (Please Print)_____Date:_____

Student Signature: _____Date:_____