

# American Government

Fossil Ridge High School 2024/2025

Mrs. Emily Cooper

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Room: E112 Office: North Wing

Off Period and Availability: 3rd period, Wednesday study support, before or after school by appointment

## **Course Description:**

This course is a survey of American Government and politics. We will study government institutions, the political process, political participation and examine policy making. The institutions and policies of the U.S. government will be considered in light of historical changes, constitutional procedures, and comparative perspectives. We will continually evaluate different viewpoints, and challenge you to **ask why**.

## **Units and Topics of Study:**

Unit 1: Foundations of American Government

Unit 2: Branches of Government

Unit 3: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties & The Supreme Court

Unit 4: Political Beliefs & Behaviors

## **Text:**

Hart, Diane, and Bert Bower. *Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You*. Rancho Cordova, CA: Teachers' Curriculum Institute, 2014. Print.

- Please follow [these directions](#) to sign-up for online textbook access.

**Course Level, Content & Instruction.** This senior level course will incorporate a variety of instructional methods and resources including lecture and discussion, independent research, debates/discussions, group projects, audio-visual presentation, games and simulations and computer-assisted instruction.

**Student Grades and Evaluation.** Letter grades are **earned by the student** based on the following.

## **Grading and Grade Breakdown**

A = 100% - 90%  
B = 89% - 80%  
C = 79% - 70%  
D = 69% - 60%  
F/No Credit = < 60%

- Assessments: 60%
- Weekly Quizzes: 15%
  - Note: administered every Friday, weekly quizzes are open-note and can be re-taken during the **next Wednesday late start**. Notes will not be allowed for quiz retakes.
- Miscellaneous Assignments: 25%

**Note: No zeroes in the gradebook:** Assignments not completed by the student will be entered as missing in the gradebook, but will be calculated as 50% credit. Quizzes, tests and assessments are exempt from this policy.

**FRHS policy on unexcused absences:** students are eligible for 60% of credit earned on work due or assigned on the day of an unexcused absence.

**Attendance and Late Work.** Attendance is essential for being successful in this class; you are always responsible for making up what you missed after an absence. Google Classroom will be updated with daily class information and resources. FRHS policy on make-up work will be followed for excused and unexcused absences. Please note that unexcused absences may result in 60% of credit earned on work assigned or due on the day missed. Late assignments will be accepted without penalty until the day of a unit assessment. However, it is to your benefit to complete class work as assigned. Please talk with me if you are having difficulty keeping up with deadlines.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism.** Students are expected to uphold academic honesty and assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. Students may not:

- Use someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit for providing you with that information.
- Use someone else's work and present it as your own.
- Share your work with other students for them to copy.

The penalty for violating these expectations is severe. Any student in violation is subject to receive no credit for any assignment that is the result of plagiarism, cheating or academic dishonesty. More significant consequences may be determined by the Dean of Students. If a student is unclear about whether a particular situation may constitute a violation of academic honesty, please contact the instructor.

**Cell Phones.** To reduce distractions created by cell phones in the classroom, I will ask students to keep their cell phones put away during class. Repeated inappropriate cell phone usage will lead to confiscation of your phone in the classroom and subsequent issues will include involvement of the FRHS dean and your parent/guardian. Phone usage during a test/quiz will result in a grade of zero on your test/quiz in addition to the above consequences. Please note: this policy can cause inconvenience for you and your family. There is only one way to eliminate this inconvenience...don't use your phone in class!

### **Student Expectations.**

1. Monitor **your learning**, grades and progress. It is your responsibility to ask questions when you need help or clarification.
2. **Be prepared.** Bring writing utensils, notebook/binder and laptop to class everyday. Keep all notes, assignments and handouts for reference.
3. **Use technology appropriately.** This means: don't let your laptop or cell phone be a distraction to you or others during class time.
4. **Honor our class time together.** This means: attend class regularly; participate and pay attention; be responsible and respectful when you need to take care of business during class (sign out on the whiteboard one at a time and use the classroom pass to visit the restroom or your locker).
5. **Your attendance is essential for your success.** After an absence, assignments, activities, quizzes and tests should be made up as soon as possible. Daily announcements and class materials are posted in Google Classroom every day to help you get caught up after an absence. Work will be accepted for full credit until the last day of a unit. Your instructor will communicate the deadline for full credit in class.
6. **Have fun learning.** The opportunity to learn new things is one we shouldn't take for granted.