



American Government

Syllabus - 2025 - 2026

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Course Description:

This course is a freshman required course designed to instill in students a working knowledge of the U.S. Government. One purpose of the course is to improve students' understanding of citizenship by making them aware of the purpose and function of our governmental system. Units will integrate economic concepts with appropriate study of the theories, forms, and needs for government; formation of the United States government, the three branches of government, state, local, and Native American systems. **This course must be completed / passed for graduation.**

Course Outline:

Semester 1

1. Introduction to Civics
2. Roots of American Democracy
3. The Constitution
4. Legislative Branch
5. Executive Branch
6. Judicial Branch

Semester 2

1. State & Local Government
2. Native & Tribal Government
3. The American Legal System
4. Voting & Elections
5. Influencing Government
6. Introduction to Economics

Primary Resources:

Google Classroom

Textbook: *Building Citizenship: Civics & Economics* (online textbook + physical textbook offered to students)

Grade Breakdown:

Semester Grade	Practice	Formative	Summative
90%	10%	30%	60%
10%	Semester Exam		

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A+	97-100	B	83-86	C-	70-72
A	93-96	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
F Below 60					

Late Work/Missing Work Policy:

Mukwonago Area Schools believes that feedback is an integral component to student success in teaching and learning. Mukwonago High School expects that all students will turn in work by the intended due date to receive full credit and necessary feedback. Students will have the opportunity to turn in practice and formative assessments up to 2 school days late to receive partial credit.

- **Full Credit:** Students *might* receive full credit if the practice or formative assessment is turned in on the due date.
- **Partial Credit:** Students will receive partial credit if the practice or formative assessment is turned in up to two school days after the due date. **The late penalty in American Government is 25% off.**
- **Zero Credit:** practice or formative assessment can be turned in past the two days to remain eligible for reassessment; however, no credit will be given.

Assessment Policy:

Assessments are used to measure student learning of essential learning standards within a unit of instruction.

Cumulative Assessments (Ex. Projects, Essays, Presentations, Semester Exams): These end of unit assessments are final products of learning in which students have had several opportunities to make adjustments based on feedback. Retakes are not provided for these types of end of unit assessments. ***Not eligible for retake**

Summative Assessments (Ex. Test): This end of unit assessment uses various types of questions that students have studied but not previously seen. Students are eligible to reassess if the following criteria are met: practice and formative assignments for the unit have been completed and turned in prior to the summative assessment, student meets with their teacher to schedule a reassessment, and demonstrates relearning within 2 weeks of receiving the original assessment. The reassessment grade will replace the original summative grade, regardless if the new grade is lower than the original assessment. ***Eligible for retake**

Materials/Supplies needed:

- ☐ charged device (Chromebook)
- ☐ pencils / pens
- ☐ notebook
- ☐ folder OR binder dedicated to this course

Expectations & Classroom Conduct:

THE MUKWONAGO WAY!

1. Be Respectful (being good to one another, keeping our room neat and clean, being on time, etc.)

Tardiness will be tracked in Infinite Campus (IC), and the following steps will be taken for each occurrence:

1st Tardy: Verbal warning

2nd Tardy: 10-minute detention with the teacher (must be served within 2 days) and parent contact; administration will be notified through Educlimber.

3rd Tardy: Teacher will submit an IC office referral. Administration will meet with the student, assign an after-school detention, and contact the parent.

4th +: The teacher will submit an office referral in Infinite Campus (IC), and administration will determine appropriate consequences at their discretion.

2. Be Responsible (Chromebook charged, assigned work is completed on time, using class time to work on Government material, etc.)
3. Be Engaged (actively participate from tone to tone, attention on the person speaking, appropriate use of Chromebook, etc.)

The school / district has a strict no phone policy from when you enter the building until 2:45 (they should be off and out of sight). If a phone comes out without teacher permission it will be confiscated and given to the office. Airpods and headphones should NOT be used / worn without teacher permission.

4. Be Safe (respect personal space, resolve conflict peacefully, use the internet and digital tools for educational purposes only, etc.)

Academic Honesty:

The Mukwonago Area School District emphasizes the importance of academic honesty and integrity as essential to education. Students are expected to complete and represent their work truthfully and are held accountable for academic misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and misuse of artificial intelligence. Teachers review the academic honesty policy at the start of each course. Consequences for dishonesty vary by offense: the **first offense** results in a zero on the assessment, parent contact, administrative review, and permanent ineligibility for National Honor Society; the **second offense** leads to another zero, a parent meeting with administration, and ineligibility for valedictorian or salutatorian honors; a **third offense** results in withdrawal from the course with a failing grade or audit status, and loss of honors pass privileges.

Tips for Success / Misc. Information:

- Stay organized and keep papers through the end of the semester.
- If you are absent it's your responsibility to find out what you missed (start with checking Google Classroom). You have one day for each day you are absent to make up missed work (or teacher discretion). After that day, any missing assignments will be accepted with a late penalty. The same goes for assessments.
- Simply put, there is no extra credit.
- Copying another student's assignment is cheating (see the above "Academic Honesty" section).
- Students need to complete a pass on Infinite Campus when they leave the room (one student gone at a time). Pass privileges can be taken away if you are taking advantage of them (meeting with friends, taking extra laps, etc.).
- Current event topics will be addressed as they relate to our course material.
- The Civics Exam, which is a graduation requirement, will take place in either late April or early May.
- Here are the Google Classroom codes (invite to join was already sent to you):
 - Yellow: vcjknwz7
 - Blue: ahraaq6e
 - Red: adpbopud
 - Pink: dlgb056w
 - Orange: nui5ifd2

All Mukwonago policies & procedures will be followed and enforced in this class as outlined in more detail in the [Mukwonago High School Student and Parent Handbook](#).