



Southside High School
U.S. Government Honors
Syllabus for Fall 2025

Instructor: Mr. Keith Bishop

Location: Room 112 (Downstairs Blue Hallway)

Phone: 864.355.8747

Email: bbishop [@greenvilleschools.us](mailto:bbishop@greenvilleschools.us)

Tutoring/Office Hours: Available by appointment

Instructor(s)' Schedule:

	First Quarter	Second Quarter
1st Block- 8:45-10:15 AM	U.S. History and Constitution CP	U.S. History and Constitution CP
2nd Block- 10:20-11:50 AM	U.S. Government Honors	Economics Honors
3rd Block- 11:55 AM-2:05 PM	Planning	Planning
Lunch-		
4th Block- 2:10- 3:45 PM	U.S. History and the Constitution Honors	U.S. History and the Constitution Honors

COURSE DESCRIPTION: U.S. Government teaches students about the governmental system of the United States. The intention is for students to not just memorize facts and details, but to develop an understanding of the nature and purpose of government. When citizens understand basic political ideas they are able to make effective and logical decisions regarding the institutions of government. **(Please note that honors classes are committed to challenging students to adequately prepare them for college-level courses that are more challenging than regular courses. Classes may require additional reading, research, essays, projects, and class presentations. Curriculum may be presented at a faster pace and have a greater depth of complexity for honors classes.)**

TEXTBOOK: *United States Government Our Democracy* and *HMH United States Government* which will be provided by the school.

INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Social Studies Department of Southside High School believes that every student can learn, but it is up to the individual student to decide to do so. We will offer plenty of learning opportunities for the students, but it is up to them to take advantage of them. A variety of teaching and assessment strategies are used to address multiple learning styles. We adhere to the district grading guidelines and to its scope and sequence recommendations in order to help each student realize his or her potential as a learner.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be on Time.
2. Be Prepared.
3. Be Respectful.
4. Be Responsible.
5. Be Positive.

Students are expected to follow all Southside High School and Greenville County School District rules and guidelines.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING POLICY: Students are encouraged to conference with the instructor at a mutually agreed upon time so they can discuss their academic strengths and needs. Assessments will be formative (evaluating academic needs) and summative (evaluating academic progress).

Major: 60%

Minor: 40%

LATE WORK POLICY

Minor Grades	Major Grades	Tests	Mastery/Corrections
Accepted until the major/summative assessment at the end of the unit, and are subject to a penalty of 10 points. <i>For example, a late minor would be a 90 in the gradebook if a student earned 100 on it and turned it in by the end of the unit.</i> <i>After the end of the unit, grade is a 0 and assignment becomes part of a mastery opportunity determined by the PLC.</i>	Accepted within 5 school days of the due date, and subject to a 10 points deduction if not missed for an excused absence. <i>For example, a late minor would be a 90 in the gradebook if a student earned 100 on it and turned it in by the end of the unit.</i> <i>After the end of the unit, grade is a 0 and assignment becomes part of a mastery opportunity determined by the PLC.</i>	Made up for full credit with an excused absence within 5 days. <i>After 5 days, accepted for half points until the end of a quarter.</i> <i>Corrections accepted for half points until the end of a quarter.</i>	Accepted until the end of the quarter

MISSED WORK/MAKE UP WORK POLICY (DUE TO ABSENCE): Make-Up Work (per GCSD Board Policy)

- Student had an **excused** absence as coded in PowerSchool (ex. medically documented illness or appointment, bereavement, court date).
- Students have 5 school days from the date of their return to complete assignments for full credit.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

All students are required to attend a public or private school or kindergarten beginning at age five (5) and continuing until their 17th birthday. Students are counted present only when they are actually in school, on homebound instruction, or are present at an activity authorized by the school principal. A student is considered in attendance when present for at least three (3) hours of a school day.

In block semester classes, students are allowed five (5) unexcused absences or parent notes for the duration of the course. In quarter classes on a block schedule, students are allowed three (3) unexcused absences or parent notes for the duration of the course. Students who miss more than five days without “lawful absences” (ie. medical note, bereavement, court date...) will have to take the course again, regardless of the grade earned in the class. Please remember that parent notes are considered “unlawful” based on the state’s compulsory attendance law and will count toward a student’s maximum allowable absences.

Cell Phone Policy:

In accordance with state law and Board Policy/Administrative Rule JCDA, personal electronic devices cannot be used during the school day unless specifically authorized in writing by the school. Students cannot wear personal electronic devices, such as smart watches, during the school day and must keep personal electronic devices out of sight of others unless authorized by the school to utilize for school related purposes. When outside of the classroom, students can use personal electronic devices for instructional reasons or for school-related purposes, such as emailing teachers, conducting research, checking class schedules, or working on assignments. The restrictions pertaining to the use of personal electronic devices starts at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. The use of personal electronic devices before and after that time is permitted so long as that use does not violate the District’s Behavior Code (Policy JCDA) or is otherwise disruptive to the school environment. For field trips, students will be provided additional information regarding the use of personal electronic devices based upon the specific trip. Students may be permitted to utilize personal electronic devices during the school day if necessary for that student in accordance with the student’s IEP/504/Health Plan.

Consequences:

- 1st - Detention
- 2nd - ISS
- 3rd - OSS

TARDY POLICY:

Tardiness to school:

Students are expected to report to their first period class by **8:45 A.M.** **Students must be in their classrooms when the tardy bell rings. Any student reporting after 8:45 A.M. must report to the attendance office.** All tardies will be classified as unexcused except for:

- 1) Doctor or dentist appointment (Parent notes will not be accepted, only medical notes.)
- 2) Administrative approval
- 3) Arriving on a late school bus (Those arriving late will receive a color coded bus pass.)
- 4) Any student arriving at school after 9:10 a.m. will be considered absent from their first period.

All others will receive an unexcused tardy slip. Tardiness to school infractions will be recorded, and repeat offenders will be subject to the school's disciplinary guidelines.

Tardiness to class:

Students are expected to be in the classroom before the tardy bell rings for class. Repeat offenders will be subject to the school's disciplinary guidelines.

Consequences per Semester

1 st – 2 nd Offense	Parent Contact
3 rd Offense:.....	Referral to Administrator, Warning, Parent Contact
4 th Offense:.....	1 hour detention
5 th Offense:.....	2 hour detention
6 th Offense:.....	OSS

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

See handbook. Students giving assistance to a student can include letting others copy any work, doing another student's work, and giving answers on quizzes or tests. Students involved will get a 0 and a referral.

As members of the Southside Learning Community, we have inherited Southside's vision as a "high school Celebrating Diversity that is United in Learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a diploma. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form. Academic dishonesty is further defined as:

- Giving, receiving, or using unauthorized aid, including the inappropriate use of electronic devices, in any work submitted to fulfill academic requirements. In examination situations all electronic devices must be off and stowed unless otherwise authorized by the instructor;
- Plagiarism, which includes the intentional or unintentional copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing the work to one's own efforts;
- Attempts to copy, edit, or delete computer files that belong to another person or use of computer accounts that belong to another person without the permission of the file or account owner.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- A three ring, loose leaf binder (preferred) or spiral notebook with pockets--due to the large amount of material covered in this course, it is **EXTREMELY** important that students keep a neat, well-organized notebook.
- Students may choose to organize their information electronically - I advise a separate electronic folder for each unit.
- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Highlighters, color pens/pencils, etc. may be useful but are not required.
- Please use blue or black ink pens or pencils and white paper for all work. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS DONE ON COLOR PAPER OR WRITTEN IN INK COLORS OTHER THAN BLUE OR BLACK!!**

COURSE OUTLINE: Instruction will follow the timeline below. *(The schedule may be modified as progress is monitored, and the major texts may be adjusted to accommodate varied learning rates and availability of supplemental materials. Changes will be noted on weekly lesson plans.)*

1st Quarter

Unit One: Foundations of Democracy

Major Assessment(s) - All assessments will include but are not limited to Journals, Skill-building assignments, Research assignments, Note Checks, Homework, Class work, Quizzes, Unit Tests and Projects.

Unit Two: Government Structure

Major Assessment(s) - All assessments will include but are not limited to Journals, Skill-building assignments, Research assignments, Note Checks, Homework, Class work, Quizzes, Unit Tests and Projects.

Unit Three: Political Process

Major Assessment(s) - All assessments will include but are not limited to Journals, Skill-building assignments, Research assignments, Note Checks, Homework, Class work, Quizzes, Unit Tests and Projects.

Unit Four: Citizenship

Major Assessment(s) - All assessments will include but are not limited to Journals, Skill-building assignments, Research assignments, Note Checks, Homework, Class work, Quizzes, Unit Tests and Projects.

SCCCR Standards for **U.S. Government** can be found at:  **US Government Standards.pdf**