



SPRING VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL

Palmetto's Finest School

120 Sparkleberry Lane
Columbia, SC 29229
www.richland2.org/svh

American Government Honors Fall Semester, 2025

Teacher Information:

Ryan Shelton Room C339

Telephone Number: 699-3500 ext: 69339

Email: rselton@richland2.org

Schedule

1st period: planning

2nd period: Government CP

3/4th block: USHC CP

5th period: planning

6th period: Government Honors

7/8th block: USHC CP

Website link: <https://sites.google.com/richland2.org/mrsshelton/home>

Course Description:

U.S. Government: This is a rigorous honors-level class designed for college-bound students. In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. In addition, they draw on their studies of world and American history, geography, and other societies to compare differences and similarities in world governmental systems today. This course is the culmination of history/social sciences classes to prepare students to solve society's problems, to understand and participate in the governmental process, and to be a responsible citizen of the United States and the world. This course examines the fundamentals of government and citizenship. It focuses on the central ideas, protections, privileges, structures, and economic systems that affect the life of a citizen in the United States political system.

State/National Standards URL Address:

http://ed.sc.gov/agency/Standards-and-Learning/Academic-Standards/old/cso/social_studies/sd2005/

Textbook Name: Magruder's American Government

Textbook Replacement Cost: \$

Material Supply List:

Students will have the following daily materials: pencil/pen, notebook, and textbook. Students who still need their material are prepared for class. Repetitive lapses on the student's part will lead to parent-teacher conferences and referral to an administrator. **Chromebooks should be charged daily.**

General Course Information:

Scope and Sequence:

Course Content:

1. The American Founding
2. The Structure of the United States Government
3. United States Government at Work
4. The Bill of Rights

Richland School District Two does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or other protected characteristic in its programs and activities.



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5. Federalism
6. Duties and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will understand

- The significance and impact of the Constitution on everyday life
- The protections and privileges of individuals and groups in the United States
- The distribution of power in the national, state, and local governments in the United States federal system
- The responsibilities of citizens in the United States
- Basic economic principles and how they influence everyday life
- The relationship between the United States and the international system

Grading Procedures:

The class grade will be based on:

Homework:	10-20 points
Quiz:	25-50 points
Classwork:	15-50 points
Project:	100 points
Final Exam:	20 % of class grade

Course Breakdown

Tentative

Introductions and Policies/Expectations: Week 1

Democracy Recipe: Weeks 2 and 3

Chapter 1: Weeks 4 and 5

Chapter 2: Weeks 6 and 7

Chapter 3: Weeks 8 and 9

Chapter 4: Weeks 10 and 11

Chapter 5: Weeks 12 and 13

Chapter 6: Weeks 14 and 15

Social Dilemma Unit: Weeks 16 and 17

Homework Policy:

Students will have daily homework assignments, either previewing or reviewing class material. Students in the American Government class will work about 15-30 minutes at home daily. The homework assignments will be announced in class and posted in the course Google Classroom site before the end of the day. Homework is due at the beginning of each class.

Late Work:

Students who miss an assignment due to illness have the district-mandated grace period to complete the make-up work. **Late Homework** will not be accepted under any circumstances. All students are encouraged to use Google Classroom and email to plan for the course and prepare for tests and projects. Students who return from an absence on the day of a previously announced test or quiz will be responsible for completing the assessment. Projects are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late work will receive a lower grade.



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(one grade per day). Any work not completed within two days of the due date will be assessed as not completed and will receive a grade of a "Zero."

Make-Up Policy:

Make-up work and tests are allowed for students who have obtained a re-admit slip from the Attendance Office or C-148 by turning in an appropriate written excuse. The responsibility for arranging makeup tests and work rests with the students. It must be scheduled at the teacher's convenience within three days of the students returning to class and completed within five days upon return. A student may only miss one class to complete or make up work in another with prior approval from both teachers.

Classroom Procedures:

*All school rules will be enforced. Please see the student agenda book for complete details.

Participation in Class Activities

Students are actively engaged in all class activities, ensuring that all activities are complete and accurate to the best of their ability.

On Task Conversations

Student participates in conversations strictly related to all classroom assignments and activities.

Posting/Turning in Assignments

Students follow the necessary guidelines for turning in/posting assignments and activities. They place them in the correct location and provide the teacher with the required capabilities to see the assignments.

Following Instructions

Students read and follow all directions for assignments and activities. Students utilize the provided resources and their peer group to clarify questions and prepare more specific questions for the Instructor.

Collaborating/Working with Peers

Students engage in and work positively with partners in groups. Students maintain partnership responsibilities and avoid the "divide and conquer" mentality. Students ensure that collaborations are meaningful in the partnerships and that learning is enhanced altogether.

Working Bell to Bell

Students work on all activities and assignments from bell to bell. The student needs to pack up early or move seats. The student makes sure to begin completing homework or double-checking accuracy if time remains. Students engage in completing meaningful work assignments.

- 1) Bathroom/Water: Students are **NOT** given a certain amount of passes to use the bathroom each quarter. Students will be allowed to use the restroom (one student at a time) **unless they abuse** the privilege (go every day around the same time or take longer than 7 minutes).



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- 2) Cell Phones: Beginning this semester, Richland Two is a free-to-focus school. This means that students are not allowed to access their cell phones (or other personal devices) from 8:50 am until 3:53 pm. This is now a South Carolina law, and must be adhered to. To ensure that we comply, the following consequences will apply should your child choose not to comply with this LAW:
- a) Warning: The first time a student is seen with their device, the teacher will instruct them to put it away. That teacher will then make a note of the warning. Refer to the [spreadsheet](#), which will be updated daily to track students who have received warnings.
 - b) Confiscation: If a student is caught using their device again by the same teacher, the teacher will confiscate the cell phone. Provided that the student hands over the cell phone, it will be taken to room C148, and the student will be able to pick it up at the end of the school day.
 - c) Confiscation: The third time that the same student is seen with their device, the teacher will ask for the cell phone. The cell phone will then be turned into C148, and the PARENT/GUARDIAN will need to come pick it up.
 - d) Defiance: Should the student be seen with their device a fourth time, the student will be written up for defiance and receive the proper consequences. This will most likely include suspension
***If the student refuses to hand over the device after their warning, the teacher will proceed with a referral.
******While students may receive a warning multiple times, once the device has been confiscated, it is monitored by the school. If one teacher has turned in the phone once, and then another teacher turns it in at a later date, the disciplinary action increases.***

Consent: I have read, understood, and am willing to comply with the principles and procedures established by Mrs. R. Shelton and Spring Valley High School. I will accept the consequences stated if I refuse to abide by them. I sign under no undue compulsion but by my own free will. I acknowledge my responsibilities in undertaking such a rigorous and challenging course.

[Google Form Signature](#)



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Parents,

Please sign that you have read the information from this class syllabus and the consent, including the following topics:

- Teacher Information
- Course Description
- Material Supply List
- Scope and Sequence
- Grading Procedures
- Homework Policy
- Late Work
- Make-Up Policy
- Classroom Procedures



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Spring Valley High School
Social Studies Department
Central Assessment Point Recovery System

The Social Studies Department policy is that students are permitted to make corrections on answers (whether on a paper or electronic test). The teacher can award partial credit, depending on each test question's point value.

Students may be allowed to use their textbook or notes to correct missed answers at the teacher's discretion. The students must show the source of information provided in the notes and text.

The teacher will determine whether the corrections will occur in the individual teacher's classroom or Testing and Tutoring, and students will be given a deadline for completing them.

Should the teacher assign a project as a significant assessment, there will be a policy to recover some missed points for all completed projects turned in by the deadline.

STUDENT AND PARENT COURSE CONSENT

We have read and understand the expectations for Government Honors and will support Mrs. Shelton in her effort to provide an effective learning environment. We also know that this course is a rigorous course that will require a significant amount of effort on the part of the student.

Student's Signature/Date

Parent's Signature/Date

Richland School District Two Honor Pledge

In my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment. I understand that any Richland School District Two honor code violation will result in academic and disciplinary action.