

## **American Government**

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**Course Description:** Students will gain a working knowledge of the concepts and principles of the American Government from the basic foundations of Government to Comparative Political Systems Worldwide. Students will be exposed to the beginnings of government and how it led to the beginning of the U.S. Government. Students will also learn about the jobs of each branch of the federal government along with covering the Florida State Government and local government.

### **Course Outline:**

Ch. 1: Foundations of Government

Ch. 3: The Constitution

Ch.5: Executive Branch

Ch. 7: Protecting Civil Liberties

Ch. 9: Elections

Ch. 2: Beginnings of American Government

Ch. 4: The Legislative Branch

Ch.6: Judicial Branch

Ch.8: Citizenship and Civil Rights

Ch. 10: Florida State and Local Government

**Sunshine State Standards:** Available online at [www.floridastandards.org/Standards/FLStandardSearch.aspx](http://www.floridastandards.org/Standards/FLStandardSearch.aspx)

### **Course Texts and Readings:**

1. **American Government Interactive: Savvas: Macgruder**
2. **Additional Reading:** Beyond the textbook, we will read primary source and secondary source documents and excerpts from books/online texts.

### **Government Class Materials**

- One 3-Ring Binder
- Pens (dark blue or black ink)
- Pencils
- Folder
- Loose leaf paper (college ruled)

**Grading:** A=100-90      B=89-80      C=79-70      D=69-60      F=59-0

- Unit Tests
  - Quizzes
  - Writing Assignments
  - Homework
  - Participation Assignments
  - Projects
  - Savvas
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- All work is due at the beginning of class on the due date, unless otherwise assigned by myself.
  - You are responsible for getting make-up work. All assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. I will keep out extra handouts.
  - **Late Work:** All assignments will be accepted up until the end of each Chapter. Points will be taken off according to how quick you get your late work handed in. After that point you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

### **Class Expectations:**

1. Be on Time
2. Come Prepared for Class
3. Be your best Everyday!
4. Show and use our core values!

### **Classroom Procedures**

1. Students will come to class with all necessary supplies (see above.).
2. Students will not use cell phones or other mobile devices in the classroom unless prompted by the teacher. Please place phones in the techbox. This is a school-wide procedure. If you have your phone, you will receive an office referral.
3. Students will be polite and respectful toward the teacher and their classmates. Students will raise their hands and wait to be recognized before speaking and will be respectful of opinions/views that differ from their own during class discussions and debates.
4. Students are expected to maintain their *academic integrity* and to work independently unless instructed differently by the teacher. If caught copying work/using A.I. *all* students involved will receive zeros on the assignment. The VHS Classroom Management Plan will be enforced.
5. Students will return all books and materials to their proper place before leaving class. Students are expected to leave their desk areas neat and free of trash.
6. **The teacher, not the bell, dismisses class.**
7. *Tardiness and Late Arrivals:* If you arrive at school after the bell rings, you should report to the front office for an admit slip.

#### ***How many tardies can I have?***

Every Tardy	Zero on the daily bellinger
1st & 2nd Tardies	Warning
3rd Tardy	Parent contact by teacher
4th-9th Tardies	Detention + Parent Contact
10th Tardy	Referral to Administration + Detention
11+ Tardies	Referral to Administration with penalties increasing from Saturday School to ISS to Attendance Contract.

### **Tips for Success in this Course:**

1. **Take complete class notes.** Put them in your OWN words. Don't write down something you don't understand without asking about it. It is very important to review your class notes each day while they are still fresh in your mind. Expand them, clarify them, and add examples so that they will make sense when you go back to study from them later. You will be given time each day to identify key terms and to summarize the big ideas for each lesson.

2. **Learn to read more effectively.** You can read more effectively by reading actively (using sticky notes or highlighters as you read), paying attention to pictures, diagrams, tables, and sidebars in your textbook and by taking notes as you read. Ask questions about what you read, then look to see if the reading passage answers your question. Always source, corroborate, contextualize, and closely read each passage.
3. Complete all homework assignments. They are meant to help you practice what was taught in class. To be successful in this class, you must complete the assignments, participate and engage in the activities.
4. Take advantage of extra credit opportunities and attend tutoring sessions.
5. I will not fail you. You are responsible for your learning and your future depends on you!