

SYLLABUS and POLICIES

Course: Core Government
Instructor: Jason Matthews
Conference Period: 3B
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Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to basic government principles, specific government issues, and the policy alternatives available for dealing with them. Upon completion of this course, the student will have gained knowledge and skills set forth in the TEKS.

Required Materials:

- Spiral Notebook
- #2 pencils
- Google Classroom Access
- Blue or black pens

Course Resources:

- United States Government. McGraw Hill Education. connected.mcgraw-hill.com (Can be accessed through your ClassLink account.)
- Online Primary and Secondary Resources
- Historical Videos
- Primary and Secondary source readings (as assigned)

Course Content:

1. Foundations of Government
2. Origins of the American Government
3. The Constitution
4. Federalism
5. The Structure of Congress
6. The Executive Branch
7. Federal and State Court Systems
8. The Supreme Court of the United States
9. Constitutional Freedoms
10. Political Parties
11. Voting & Elections
12. Public Opinion & Interest Groups
13. Mass Media in the Digital Age

Grading Policy

Below is the district grading policy. There will be a final at the end of the semester, which will be worth 20% of the semester grade.

- 70% Assessments – includes, but is not limited to, exams, projects, and essays.
- 30% Daily Work – includes, but is not limited to, the following: quizzes, participation, warm-ups, class work, project progress/checkpoints and notebooks.

Class Policies

Class Rules

- Watch Your Mouth - Students will exhibit courtesy and respect toward all other students at all times. Hateful comments concerning race, gender, sexuality, political views, appearance, or of any other type will not be tolerated; this applies to serious as well as "joking" comments. **Profanity is not acceptable in class.**
- Keep Your Hands to Yourself - Physical contact of any kind is not permitted. Allow everyone his or her own personal space. Violation of this simple rule will be punished.
- Stay in Your Seat - Do not walk around during class unless directed to do so. Have everything you need ready before class begins.

- I Need to See Your Eyes - Students may not sleep in class. To prevent this, students' eyes must be open and visible to the instructor at all times.
- Nothing Goes Airborne - Nothing will go airborne in class at any time. This includes but is not limited to pens, paper, and other students.
- Students will follow the SOCIAL CONTRACT that is designed and approved by the students.

- **Tardy Policy**

You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat and ready to learn at the start of class time. If you are late, you will be marked as tardy.

- **Academic Honesty**

It is expected that students will use genuine, sincere, and fair means for the accomplishment of the tests, tasks, or projects from which evaluations of progress shall be determined. Students found plagiarizing, copying or cheating in any way will receive an automatic referral and have phone calls made to their parents. Flagrant or repeated offenses will result in a failing grade for the semester depending on the nature of the incident.

- **Missing Work**

A **49** in the grade book indicates a missing assignment (used as a placeholder). If you fail to turn in an assignment, I reserve the right to assign a zero. Students will have many opportunities to raise low grades.

- **Late Work**

Late work will be accepted for a lesser grade depending on circumstances and date turned in.

- **Attendance**

If you are not here, you cannot learn. If a student has an absence from class s/he is responsible for the assignment(s) that was missed, and have one week to make up and turn in any missed work for full credit. Special consideration will be given to students who miss several days of school at a time. ***Ultimately, it is up to the student to inquire about missed work and tests.***

- **Substitute Behavior**

You should be on your best behavior when you have a substitute. Students who are listed on a sub report for bad behavior will receive an automatic referral and a phone call home. Do what is assigned and expect it to be graded. If you choose not to do the work assigned by a substitute you will receive a 0 for that assignment. You cannot turn this work in late.

Most Common Procedures

- **Entering the Classroom**

You are to enter the classroom without screaming, running or otherwise causing a disruption. Students who do not do this will be asked to leave the room and re enter as expected. Once seated, check the front board for the day's objective.

- **Leaving the Classroom**

This class will be taught from scheduled start to scheduled end. This means that the clock does not dismiss the class, I do. Do not pack up until I dismiss the class. Do not leave your seats until I dismiss the class. "People who pack fast shall leave last."

- **Absences**

On the day you return from an absence you should arrive early to class and come ask me what you missed. **This is your responsibility!**

- **Using the Bathroom**

Students will not be allowed to leave class during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class. This is non-negotiable, and it is school policy. You must leave your phone in class.

*** Policies and procedures may be changed or added by the instructor, as needed. All procedures will be thoroughly rehearsed as a class.**