

American Government

Ms. MOSS

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Course Description

Welcome to American Government! This course focuses on the origins of the United States government and how the government functions today. Students can expect to learn about the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the American government. Additionally, we will cover how a bill becomes a law, how officials are elected, and more. Students will learn about the rights and privileges of American citizens and the role they play as individuals in a democratic republic. Students will engage in skill-based work, essays, exams, group work, projects, and discussions. The subject of this class lends itself to discussion and students are expected to share their viewpoints and listen to others in a civil manner.

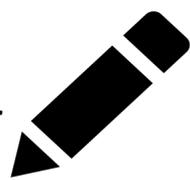
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Learning Objectives

- Discuss the history of the American Government over time.
 - Identify the three federal Branches of government and their roles.
 - Describe how the American Government defines and protects individual human rights.
 - Evaluate the organization of state and local governments and their role in a larger democratic republican system of government.
 - Locate, organize, analyze, and use information from various sources to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and communicate the position.
 - Explain the purpose of a democratic government, analyze the strain between ideologies in reference to those purposes.
 - Trace the formation of political parties due to differences in ideology
 - Analyze the influence of people, organizations, and advocates on public policy.
 - Describe and evaluate ideas of how society should be organized and political power should be exercised.
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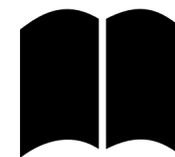
Materials

Textbook
Chromebook
Notebook
3-ring binder or folder
Pencil/Pen
Highlighter



Textbook

United States Government, Our Democracy



Units for American Government *(subject to change)*

1st Semester

- Unit 1: Foundations of Government
- Unit 2: Origins of the American Government
- Unit 3: The Constitution
- Unit 4: Federalism
- Unit 5: The Legislative Branch

2nd Semester

- Unit 1: The Judicial Branch
- Unit 2: The Executive Branch
- Unit 3: Freedom, Citizenship, & Justice
- Unit 4: Political Parties, Elections, & Voting

Grading Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
66-67	D
65	D-
0-64	F

Quarter Grades

Formative Assessments 20%
(Notes, Daily Work, Current Events, Class Participation, etc.)

Summative Assessments 80%
(Exams, Projects, Quizzes, and Essays, etc.)

Semester Grades

Quarter grades 42.5%
Semester Exam 15%



No food or drinks other than water



Questions? Just ask!

Grading Policy



Assignments will be graded and returned in a timely manner to allow students a chance to build on their knowledge and stay organized. Students are expected to continually improve their work. Therefore, if a student wants to retry an assessment, they will have the opportunity to revise any written work or projects. Revised work must be completed one week from the date students received the original grade. Students may receive 5 points of extra credit per quarter by completing a Current Events Analysis.

Absent and Late Work Policy



Please make every effort to attend class on a regular basis. When you are absent you will miss out on class discussion and activities. If you are planning to be absent, please notify me ahead of time to acquire any assignments or handouts. If you are sick or have an unplanned absence, see me when you return to school. **It is individual student's responsibility to get missing work!** Work will be docked 10% for being late. Formative assessments will not be accepted past the end of a unit. **If you are struggling in this course, please come talk to me as soon as possible!**

Academic Integrity



Students are held to a high standard of excellence with regards to academic integrity. If a student is found being dishonest regarding an assessment they will receive one opportunity to redo the assessment for up to 70%. If you did not complete an assignment it is better to turn it in late rather than copy a friend's. Additionally, when submitting written work please cite sources and do not plagiarize. Anyone found cheating on a summative assignment, which may include using notes, electronic devices, or not citing sources, will also receive a call home and office referral.

Technology



Chromebooks will be used in class frequently. Chromebooks are to be used for academic use only. Students are expected to remain on task and refrain from engaging in off task behaviors. **Cellphones are not to be used in class.** Students must keep them in their locker or place them in the cellphone holder in classroom. If students violate the cellphone policy, I will follow the school board policy and take the phone to the office.

Welcome



I am excited to have each one of you in my course this year. I look forward to an exciting year filled with discussion. I expect each of you to come prepared for class by completing assignments, bringing materials and having an open mind. I respect each of your individual differences and I expect you to respect your classmates as well. Please let me know if you are struggling in this course and I will do my best to support you. I look forward to hearing your ideas and insights this year!