



U.S. Government Class Outline

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Google Classroom:

“Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom.”

John Adams, Defense of the

Constitution, 1787

“If a nation expects to be ignorant – and free – in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Colonel Charles Yancey, January 6, 1816

Textbook: Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You, Teachers’ Curriculum Institute, 2009.

Overview: This course is a one-semester class designed to give students a general overview of the U.S. system of government. Topics within this course include great political thinkers and writers, the Constitution, political parties, the federal system, the court system, and state and local government. In this course students will be expected to be up to date on current events in the areas of government and politics. This class is NCAA accredited.

Schedule:

- Unit One:** Power, Authority, and Government
- Unit Two:** Foundations of American Government
- Unit Three:** Political Participation and Behavior
- Unit Four:** The Legislative Branch
- Unit Five:** The Executive Branch
- Unit Six:** The Judicial Branch
- Unit Seven:** The United States and the World

The above schedule is a guideline, not an exact timeline. Although we try to adhere to the schedule, the teacher reserves the right to deviate from this schedule as time dictates.

Class Rules: This class will follow all school policies regarding tardiness, absences, and disciplinary issues. Make sure to read those sections in your student handbook for further information. To ensure a productive work environment, students must act in a mature and respectful manner, both towards the teacher and peers.

Absences: Students are responsible for any missed assignments or in class work. It is also the student’s responsibility to inform the teacher of any absences. Students are ultimately responsible for their attendance and any issue stemming from them missing class.

Grading: Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

A+ = 100-98%	A = 97-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59% or below		

We operate on an 80/20 grade scale. The cumulative semester work is worth 80% of the grade with the final exam worth 20%

Your semester grade (without including the final exam) will be based on the following assessments:

Exams (40%) – Approximately every 3-4 weeks, you will take an in-class exam. These exams will generally cover 3-4 chapters in the textbook. Unit exams may contain a variety of question types, including essays.

Quizzes (30%) – A quiz will be given at the end of most chapters. Quiz questions may be multiple-choice, true or false, short answer, or in essay formats.

Homework/Projects (25%) – Homework may consist of reading assignments, worksheets, essays, etc. Projects consist of multi-day assignments and/or group activities.

Participation (5%) – Your participation grade includes in-class individual assignments/activities. This may consist of document analyses, creation of graphic organizers, journal entries, etc.

Grades will be updated routinely as needed. If there is ever a question, ask.

Make-up

Work: Chapter quizzes can be made up by appointment. To retake a quiz, the student must prearrange what relearning will be accomplished. The retake must be completed within three school days of the original quiz. Please set this up with the teacher. No make-ups can be done the week prior to a grading period. All other work must be turned in on time. Excused absences will be allowed the time as stated in the school handbook. Any unexcused absence will result in a zero.

Materials: It is suggested that students have a folder and notebook specifically for this class alone.

Technology: While it is believed technology does have some educational purposes, it also must be used so as not to cause a distraction to yourself or others. Cell phones and all like devices should be stored in the classroom distraction station.

Tips for

Success: Be prepared! That includes having good attendance and participating in class. Also, staying organized is imperative. Bring all necessary materials to class each day. Write down assignments in your planner. Turn work in on time. Do not hesitate to ask questions.