



Course Syllabus

Course Title: American Government

Instructor Information:

Mrs. Sara Badiuk

Room 123

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Available for conferencing: 5th period and before or after school most days.

Course Description:

This is a required course for all seniors who are not in the AP course in American Government. This course will examine the three branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) at the national, state and local levels from a historical as well as contemporary viewpoint. In addition, an in-depth study of voter behavior and political campaigns will be examined in relation to primary and/or general elections being held at the same time.

Textbooks, Readings and Materials:

TEXTBOOK: Magruder's *American Government* (book cover required)

READINGS: Relevant supplemental reading material will be provided with each unit.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Notebook (3-ring binder recommended), pen, and pencil

Grading:

- A point system is used. All earned points are added up at the end of the grading period and divided by the total possible points. This is converted to a percent and the equivalent letter grade.

GRADING SCALE: **A** 92-100 **B** 84-91 **C** 76-83 **D** 65-75 **F** 64-0

- Types of assessments for which points are earned include: tests, quizzes, homework, in-class assignments, projects, participation and writings.

- I offer no curve on final quarter grades

- There will be occasional opportunities for extra credit

Class Expectations:

- Be to class on time and in your seat when the bell rings.
- Come to class prepared to learn. (Pen/pencil, textbook, binder, etc.)
- Follow directions.
- **NO PROFANITY!** You will be written up immediately if you violate this rule!
- **NO CELL PHONES!**
- Respect all ideas given in class and do not criticize anybody's ideas or thoughts. Put downs and derogatory comments will not be tolerated; this includes references to homosexuality, race, gender, religion, your peers, faculty, and staff.
- Be polite to each other. When the teacher or one of your peers is talking you should be listening.
- I dismiss you...not the bell. Stay in your seats until the bell rings. **DO NOT** line up at the door.
- **Off Limit Areas:** Do not go behind my desk or computer without permission.
- You must do your own work. Cheating or plagiarizing on any assignments, quizzes, tests, or exams will result in a zero on the assignment. See the student handbook for additional consequences.
- Participate: share your thoughts and opinions!
- Do your very best! I have high expectations because I know you are all bright young adults with a lot of potential. Success in anything requires discipline, hard work, and a positive attitude.

Homework Policy:

- If you forget your homework, I will accept it one day late for half credit. No homework will be accepted after that.
- All homework must be turned in when I collect it or it will be considered late. All late homework must be turned in before class starts.

Absences:

- If you have an excused absence from class you can make up the work.
- You will have the number of days you were absent to complete and turn in missed assignments or to make up a test.
- If your absence is unexcused you will receive no credit for missed work.
- If you are absent see me **before** class starts to get the work you missed.
- You are responsible for getting any missed assignments.

Suggestions for Success:

- Do not be afraid to ask for help! I am more than willing to assist you with any problems before or after school.
- Do your homework and complete all reading assignments
- Take advantage of the study guides I give you when studying for tests.