

American Government Course Syllabus

Mr. Welch - Buckley High School

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

This course consists of the basic foundations of American Government. This course will also focus on the development of the Constitution and will look at the establishment of the system of government we have today. Aside from textbook reading this course will include outside texts from primary sources and will be inquiry based. Students will spend time analyzing the events of this time era and when appropriate use that to compare and contrast to today's world. Each module will focus on an Essential Question to help them understand the content. Each lesson under the modules will have an "I can statement" which is used to guide to the understanding of the lesson and is a piece of puzzle to the essential question.

Curriculum Overview:

The course is broken down into 7 units and covers a wide variety of topics. This is to have students be prepared to understand key concepts of American Government that they will need to know throughout their high school career. Most of the assignments and materials are derived from the textbook entitled *Magruder's American Government* (ISBN 9780131335783). Students will each be assigned a textbook that they will be responsible for, and will be held accountable for any damages to the textbook including writing on the pages. The use of other media will also be used, which include: videos, websites, chromebooks, etc.. Each module will consist of an end of module assessment that will measure knowledge learned of the material.

Semester Units

- Unit 1: Foundations of American Government
- Unit 2: Political Behavior: Government By the People
- Unit 3: The Legislative Branch
- Unit 4: The Executive Branch
- Unit 5: The Judicial Branch
- Unit 6: Comparative Political and Economic Systems
- Unit 7: Participating in State and Local Government

Secondary Grading (from the student handbook)

Students have a right to know grades at any time in any class during the school year by checking PowerSchool. Students have a right to know grades at any time in any class during the school year by checking PowerSchool. Starting on the 3rd week of each semester there will be

an update issued for any student who is experiencing academic difficulty. These updates will be sent home via a phone call to parents/guardians.

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–
67 – 69 D+
63– 66 D
60 – 62 D–
00 – 59 E

Grading Procedures (from Handbook)

Grades will be established on the following basis, using homework, assessments, participation, and other standard forms of evaluation of students.

Semester Grades, Grades 7–12

The year is broken down into two semesters (18 weeks). The final exams for each semester will account for 20% of the semester grade. All students will be required to take first semester exams.

Note: 2nd semester only--students will be exempt from exams if they have a semester grade of **90%** or better unless the teacher requires the final exam to be taken. Students who are present at school and are not required to take an exam will check in at the Cave.

Make up Work (from handbook)

A student who is absent or truant from school must be responsible to get any assignments he/she needs to complete. The student has the number of days absent following their return to make up their work. This is a minimum; teachers are encouraged to hold students accountable for make-up work allowing a reasonable amount of time. Students excused for school sponsored activities must meet all classroom activities. Any missing assignment/test/etc will be entered into the grade book as a zero, whether excused or not, until the assignment is turned in.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is defined as behavior that is consistent with moral and ethical academic standards. Such behavior can be described as completing work independently and on time, proper documentation of research in reports, paying attention in class, working cooperatively within a group, refraining from copying other people's ideas and work, or discouraging others to engage in this type of behavior. **Academic Dishonesty** is defined as behavior that is **not**

consistent with moral and ethical academic standards. Such behavior can be described as plagiarism, cheating or copying the work of another, using technology for illicit or illegal purposes, or any unauthorized communication between students for the purpose of gaining advantage during an examination.

More specific forms of academic dishonesty include:

- Looking at someone else's work, or knowingly allowing someone else to look at one's work during an exam, test, or quiz.
- Using any kind of "cheat notes" during an exam, test, or quiz.
- Having access to or using stolen exams, tests, or quizzes.
- Using an electronic device to give or receive or copy information before, during, or after an exam, test or quiz.
- Collaborating on an exam, test, quiz, or assignment with any other person without prior approval from the teacher.
- Claiming credit for work in a group project when no individual work was submitted.
- Accessing and/or using copyrighted test bank questions or any materials designed for teacher use only.
- Attempting to misrepresent the authorship of student work. (i.e., having someone else write a paper)
- Copying or closely paraphrasing sentences, phrases, or passages from un-cited sources while writing a paper or doing research.
- Using views, opinions, or insights of others without proper acknowledgement.

Other Expectations:

- There is to be **no use** of cell phones or other electronic devices during class time. When you enter the classroom your phone needs to be put in the phone holder to the right of the door. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- There is no food allowed to be eaten in the classroom. You may have a water bottle with a closable top. No other drinks are allowed. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- Students are to be seat before the bell rings to start each class
- Please remember that I dismiss you. Please stay seated until I release you. This is important as I may have some more information to pass along when the bell rings. There also will be no lining up at the door.
- **Bathroom** passes are given to you 2 times a week in each class. This includes refilling water bottles. There is a sign out log on my desk and you **MUST ASK** to use the restroom. You are not allowed to sign out and leave without asking first. You must wait 15 minutes from the start of class to use the bathroom.
- **Be Respectful** to me, your classmates, other staff, and yourself.
- **Be Responsible** by coming to class prepared. If you forget something and need to go get it you will receive a tardy.
- Cheating of any kind is an automatic **ZERO**. If it becomes a continual offense then I will be contacting your parent(s).

Acknowledgement of Understanding:

I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus for Government/Economics and am aware of the requirements and policies set forth within this document. **Signed syllabus due by Friday, Sep 6, 2024.**

Print Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____