

Government: (One Semester Course)

2016-2017 School Year

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Websites:

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Course Structure:

Participation in Government is the study of our American democracy. Our investigation will look at how our country's political system has evolved and the impact it has on each one of us in our daily lives. We will explore the role of citizenship and our responsibility to each other. Different tools will be used to learn about our government. Here is a partial list of them:

1. Reading the textbook
2. Completing online interactive notebook
3. Completing online reading challenges
4. Writing Activities
5. Research and Presentation of a Government Topic
6. Project Based Learning
7. Summative Assessments

Evaluation:

The grading in each block for this course is based on the following:

1. Projects, Presentations & Chapter Tests - 40%
2. Summative Assignments (Writing Activities, Reading Challenges and Other Assignments)- 40%
3. Formative Assignments (Interactive Notebook and Other Assignments) – 20%

Homework assignments in this course can be either Formative or Summative. Failure to complete any assignment could result in a disciplinary referral. Students are responsible for all coursework if they are absent. Failure to complete all required coursework could result in a grade of Incomplete. Late assignments from 1 to 7 calendar days from the due date will be penalized 10%. Late assignments from 8 to 14 calendar days from the due date will be penalized 20%. Assignments later than 14 calendar days will not be accepted and will receive 0 points.

Final Grade = 1st Block, 40% 2nd Block 40%, Final Exam 20%

Students and Parents who register may view grades online using SchoolTool

Academic Honesty Policy:

All writing that you submit for credit in this course will be your own work. Do not copy published or unpublished writing without providing a full citation for the work. If you have any question about proper documentation of sources, see me for guidance. No credit will be awarded for work that violates the standards of academic honesty.

Textbook:

Government Alive! Power, Politics and You, TCI Publishing, Pala Alto, CA, 2014

This is a unique program that offers an interactive learning environment that allows students to complete an interactive notebook, take chapter quizzes and complete other exercises online. Students will need access to a computer, tablet or smart phone.

Materials:

Students should bring a one inch loose leaf binder with a supply of paper to class each day to record information given in class. Bring 2 pens or pencils to class each day. Please have available colored pencils and a ruler when necessary. No assignments will be accepted on notebook paper torn from a spiral notebook. There is a large supply of lined paper available in my room for those who need it. (No Exceptions) Keep in mind that some assignments are required to be typed.

Course Outline:**Power Authority and Government**

The Nature of Power Politics and Government (Chapter 1)

Why should you care about power, politics and government?

Comparing Forms of Government (Chapter 2)

How should political and economic power be distributed in a society

Foundations of American Government

The Roots of American Democracy (Chapter 3)

What ideas gave birth to the world's first modern democratic nation?

The United States Constitution

How and why did the framers distribute power in the Constitution?

The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties (Chapter 4)

How are your rights defined and protected under the Constitution?

Federalism: National, State and Local Powers (Chapter 6)

How does power flow through our federal system of government?

Political Participation and Behavior

Citizens Participation in the Democracy (Chapter 7)

How can you make a difference in a democracy?

Parties, Interest Groups and Public Policy (Chapter 8)

Political parties and interest groups: How do they influence our political decisions?

Public Opinion and the Media (Chapter 9)

To what extent do the media influence your political views?

Political Campaigns and Elections (Chapter 10)

Elections and voting: Why should they matter to you?

The Legislative Branch

Lawmakers and Legislatures (Chapter 11)

What makes an effective legislator?

Congressional Lawmaking (Chapter 12)

How do laws really get made?

The Executive Branch

Chief Executives and Bureaucracies (Chapter 13)

What qualities do modern presidents need to fulfill their many roles?

The Federal Budget (Chapter 14)

Does the federal government budget and spend your tax dollars wisely?

The Judicial Branch

Courts, Judges and the Law (Chapter 15)

How is the U.S. judicial system organized to ensure justice?

The Criminal Justice System (Chapter 16)

From doing the crime to doing time: How just is our criminal justice system?

The United States and the World

Creating American Foreign Policy (Chapter 17)

How should the United States conduct foreign policy?

Confronting Global Issues (Chapter 18)

How effectively do international organizations respond to global issues?