

## **Syllabus: US Government**

### **Course Description**

This course begins with the foundational principles of government, surveys the various types of government, and traces the significant people, events and document which were part of the American political heritage leading up to the creation of the United States of America. Following an article-by-article study of the Constitution and a lesson on methods of the Constitutional interpretation, the student explores the United Nations organization, U.S. foreign policy, and the impact of immigration and globalization on our nation. The course concludes with a lesson on citizenship and an individual research project on state and local governments. Homework will average 2 - 3 hours per week.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

### **Assignments & Exams**

Reading - Students are responsible for keeping up with the reading assignments for each class period. Reading assignments are subject to change and therefore, students must listen to the archive of any missed class to verify that no changes have been made in the reading assigned. Writing Assignments - The Writing Assignments category is made up of various writing assignments that students must complete throughout the course, as indicated in the Course Assignment Sheet. Projects - There are two projects (one each semester). The first is a two-part team project consisting of debate preparation and an in-class debate on the legality or illegality of secession. The second is a student led presentation of a controversial topic chosen by students (from a list) and shared in class.

Students will take a midterm and final exam in addition to two other exams. Students are allowed to use their primary source books for the essay portion but

are prohibited from using any notes, non-primary source materials, or the Internet. The exam will be taken in one sitting and proctored by an adult. All exams are to be uploaded no later than 11:55 PM ET on the due date. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor.

### **Evaluation**

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

- |                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ● Class Attendance             | 5%  |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Homework                     | 20% |
| ● Projects/Presentations       | 20% |
| ● Exams                        | 20% |
| ● Midterm/Final Assessment     | 20% |

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

### **Late Work**

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

### **Exam/Test Retakes**

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

### **Textbooks**

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

#### US Government Course Kit (0035770)

- American Government Student Edition (090120)
- American Government Student Activities Manual (090122)

### **Course Calendar**

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.