

GOVERNMENT CLASS PROCEDURES

M. Wilson Room 618

COURSE CONTENT: Text: Pearson: Magruder's American Government \$199.99
QUARTER ONE: Purpose of government, U. S. Constitution, Campaigns, Elections, and Politics.
QUARTER TWO: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and Branches of the Federal Government.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be daily assignments that range from reading a topic section in your text to writing a paper or discussing an issue. Reading, research, and discussion will be a vital part of this course. Students may have a quiz after an assigned reading selection. There will be a semester project due at the end of the semester. The content of these projects will be determined by the interests of each individual student. There will be a test at the end of each unit, and a comprehensive final at the end of the semester. High scores on assignments and quizzes indicates you have done your homework. High test scores indicates you have learned your homework. Be prepared to write at least one essay on each test.

STUDENT SUPPLIES: Pen, pencil, paper, notebook, textbook, and student preparation for the day's lesson. You will need to round up supplies for semester projects as you begin to work on them. You are encouraged to use what you have at home without buying anything. This is not always possible. Your spending will be based upon what your project idea is, and what you are willing to spend. You set the limits, and then stay within your budget.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required by the Washington State Legislature. Your attendance is necessary because it is related to the outcomes for you in this course. Attendance is used as part of the basis for grading in this course. If you miss days, or are tardy often you will lose participation points, and you will miss instruction. You will not be allowed to make up work for an unexcused absence. You will be considered absent if you enter the classroom 5 minutes after the bell rings. If you have a note it will be excused, if you do not have a note the absence will be considered unexcused. Student must have a note excusing them for an absence upon returning to class or the absence(s) will be considered unexcused.

PARTICIPATION: You will be graded on your participation in this class. You will be given 5 points weekly for participation. Part of your participation is based on attendance. You will lose 1 point for each absence, and 1 point for each tardy you have. Your presence will benefit the class and will help you. If you miss, or are tardy you diminish the potential for participation in the room. Loss of participation is something that is impossible to make up. Once the time has passed you are unable to recreate the moment. Therefore, losing points for being absent or tardy are points that may not be made up at a later date. Being prepared for class to begin is another way to participate. Having notebooks out and getting involved in the lesson in response to the bell is an expectation. The overhead will have work or activities listed there. Students need to begin without a request from the teacher who will begin to take roll when the bell rings. Homework needs to be in the upper left hand area of your working space as a part of being prepared for class. One last way to participate is to speak on a daily basis. We need your opinions and answers to make the class interesting and fun. Filling a seat and taking up space without ever getting involved is not the expectation here. The instructor will review your participation habits on a weekly basis.

LATE WORK: Due within as many days as you were gone if your absence was excused. After an exam on the unit you will get zero credit for handing homework in for that unit. If a student is having a hard time catching up, they need to see me before the assignment is due to get an extension on the due date. Extensions will be based upon the situation and the judgment of teacher.

GRADING: Letter grades are based upon a percentage of the total possible points. The following summary shows the breakdown of the student's grade.

Homework	25%
Tests	25%
Semester Project	25%
Semester Final	15%
Participation	10%

*Students will be given a letter grade based on the following grade scale

A	100%	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%	60%

School Board policy prevents recording A+ or D- grades.

CHEATING

1st offense... zero on assignment or test, office referral, parent contact

2nd offense... office referral, parent conference, loss of credit, with drop from the course.

EXTRA CREDIT

Any student may choose to write a 1200 word report to substitute for one test, except the semester final. This may be done one time per quarter. You must get permission from the instructor, and then have your topic accepted before any credit will be given. THE INSTRUCTOR MAY REFUSE TO ALLOW YOU THE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTRA CREDIT BASED ON POOR ATTENDANCE, OR THE INABILITY TO HAND IN ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME

ATTITUDE: You alone are the one responsible for your attitude in this class. What you choose to think will affect the way you approach the material presented in this room. Be attentive, responsible, and show respect to make the most out of your experience in this class.

GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

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UNIT 1 Foundations of American government Foundations of Government The Beginnings of American Government The Constitution State and Local Government Comparative Political Systems	readings...1-3,13,14
UNIT 2 Campaigns, Elections, and Politics Government by the People Elections Party Time: Simulation Game	readings...10-11
UNIT 3 Division of Power Legislative Branch The Executive Branch The Judicial Branch “Separate but Equal” Government and the Economy	readings...4-7,12
UNIT 4 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights Civil Liberties Citizenship and Civil Rights “A More Perfect Union”	readings...8-9
UNIT 5 Mock Congress Form Legislature Research Bills 5-8 day session	readings...Class sources

SEMESTER PROJECT

FINAL EXAM