

# American Government

**Mr. DeLaet**

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**Room 813**

This course will help to inform and equip students to become educated, well informed members of our democratic society. Students will also gain a deeper perspective of the organization of our government, the role of the government in our daily lives, and be exposed to the different perspectives on how the political process works.

## **Course Objectives: American Government**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the origins and principles of the United States System of Government found in the constitution of the United States.
2. Explain how people contribute to the political process as well as explain the differences of beliefs across the political spectrum.
3. Explain the function, responsibilities and powers of the judicial, legislative, and judicial branches
4. Explain how the Government affects the lives of its citizens on the local, state, and federal levels.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Follow the rules and regulations of the student handbook
2. Be on time and in your seat before class begins
3. Do YOUR best
  - I want to know what you know, not what your neighbor does
4. Respect your classmates and the instructor(s)
6. Own up to your mistakes

## **Restroom use and Tardiness**

- **Importance of Being On Time:**

Being on time is essential for your success and the smooth operation of our class. Arriving late disrupts not only your learning but also the learning of others. Therefore, it is crucial that you arrive on time, prepared, and ready to engage in the day's lesson.

- **Restroom Use:**

To minimize disruptions and ensure that all students can make the most of their class time, restroom use is not permitted during class. Please plan accordingly and use the restroom before or after class.

- **Tardies and Consequences:**

Timeliness is a key responsibility in this classroom. If you are late to class three times, it will result in a detention. Each additional tardy after that will result in further disciplinary actions. Please make punctuality a priority to avoid these consequences.

## **Cell Phone**

- Need to be off and placed in bag
- Cell phone policy will be used
  - Don't make me be the "bad guy"

## **Resources**

Ipad

Pen/Pencils

Notebook

## **Course Grading**

**55% Summative-Tests/ Major Projects**

**30% Formative- Notes/ Daily Assignments/Activities/Quizzes**

**15% Citizenship Test**

### **Semester Grading Parameters**

**1st Semester:** Quarter 1 = 45% / Quarter 2 = 45% / 1st Semester Final = 10%

**2nd Semester:** Quarter 3 = 45% / Quarter 4 = 45% / 2nd Semester Final = 10%

### **Homework**

Classwork will be given several times a week. Make sure that you take advantage of any time given in class. These assignments will include worksheets, reading assignments with questions, writing assignments, and group projects.

### **Late Work:**

Any late work will result in a loss of 20% credit so the max score you can get is an 80%.

I will accept late assignments until the unit the assignment was given is over. Once we have taken the unit test, late work will not be accepted.

### **Citizenship Test**

As part of this class, you'll have to take and pass the American Citizenship test. By "pass," that means you must get 90%. This will be a large summative test grade that will be spread across both quarters (50 pts in first and 68 second). You can take this test as many times as you need throughout the semester and won't be put into the gradebook until after each quarter. You will have three chances to pass it in class, after that the

responsibility to come in and take it is on you. There are 128 questions and to get full credit for the exam, you need to get a 115/128.

- You get your 50 points for the first quarter when you answer 50 questions correctly
- You get your 68 points for the second quarter when you get 90%

### **Late Work Policy**

Late work will be accepted for up to 80% credit until the end of the unit the assignment was in. Once the unit test is over, the homework will no longer be accepted.

*\*Extensions permitted per school handbook for absences*

### **Cheating**

Cheating on any exam or quiz will result in an automatic 0 and a ban on iPad use for them.

### **Make Up Work**

Homework, quizzes, and tests (in some cases) can be redone for additional points if the grade received was under a 50%.

- You can receive up to 80% credit if all the criteria are met.

**Communication:** I am happy to assist students with questions outside of the classroom, and I encourage every student to self-advocate for themselves if they are in need of clarification. The best way to contact me is through my email address at any time of the day. I try to respond to this as quickly as possible.