

American Government

Mr. Holden

Joshua.Holden@lexschools.org

American Government Course Description

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.

Resources

United States Government, Our Democracy – by McGraw Hill 2018

Grading Policies:

- Summative assessment 70% (tests, quizzes, projects and papers)
- Citizenship Test 5%
- Formative assessment 25% (homework, classwork).

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 in person, or by email. Remember, I am here to help during your 2nd hour and after school during tutoring hours if you need help.

How to Submit work: All work here must be submitted on Google Docs through Turnitin.com unless otherwise specified. If work is not submitted by Google Docs, it may not be counted. On top of this, work must have the questions copied over to it on a google doc when answering questions.

Late and Absent Work: Any academic work turned in late will not receive full credit. Unless otherwise specified work will be due at 11:59pm the day that it is due. Work will be accepted for a maximum of 70% until the quarter. Work cannot be submitted after the quarter has been completed. Certain assignments may be more time sensitive and cannot be made up.

Excused absence work will fall in line with school policy and will not be considered late. If work is turned in after the grace period given, it will be considered late. All electronic work must also be submitted **before** the class period. (If not, it is considered to be late.)

Expectations on written work.

Students should read all assigned work to its fullest. Unless otherwise noted, work should be done in complete sentences. Responses should not be copied word for word from the text but instead be a reflection of the student's individual thought and reflection upon the material. If work is borrowed from a text assigned it should be properly cited.

IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO MAKE UP MISSING WORK.

Cheating- DO NOT DO IT! If cheating, suspected cheating, or attempted cheating takes place you will receive an automatic zero on the assignment and appropriate disciplinary action. This includes the person who cheated off of the person as well as the person who provided the materials for them to cheat with. *** (Includes talking during a test) ***

You should never collaborate your work with others unless you are instructed to do so by your instructor. The reason being is that it puts you in a potentially bad position. If that person plagiarizes from you either directly or indirectly, you are just as guilty as they are for academic dishonesty. The penalty for you turning in work from someone else may also affect grades regardless of when you turn it in. An example of this would be someone plagiarizing off of you on a late assignment. If you provide work to someone else that they plagiarize from you may incur a penalty that will affect your work retroactively because it would still be under the umbrella of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism- Plagiarism falls under the cheating category. Any text that is borrowed, quoted, or otherwise included from an outside source must be cited or its inclusion is considered plagiarism. If plagiarism occurs, you will receive a zero and will be further dealt with in accordance with school policy. If you do not know what plagiarism is in regards to an assignment, please ask.

General Rules for Academic Dishonesty

Students who are truthful in their dishonesty will be handled differently than ones that are dishonest in the framework of consequences. Habitual behavior will result in stricter penalties and will not be tolerated.

Artificial Intelligence: The use of artificial intelligence to write papers and submit them as your own is a violation of school policy. Everything you turn in for a grade should reflect your own individual thoughts and work. If found to have used and flagged for AI by our AI/Plagiarism detection software the student will have to redo the assignment or part of the assignment in a homeroom period or after school in order to receive any degree of credit based on the instructor's discretion. Multiple violations or abuse of this policy may result in further disciplinary action.

General Classroom Rules

Bathroom/Drinks/Safety

ASK to use the bathroom or get a drink before class starts. Do not ask during class. If you have to leave during class, you will need to make up the time that you are out of class after school that day. If that time is not made up, you will be given a 30-minute detention.

Fire- Go out door #12 to the front of the modular. Meet together as a group so I can take attendance.

Tornado- Go to DeLaet's' room across the hall.

Misc. Rules

Holden you accountable

1. You will not be marked tardy if you are in your seat when the bell rings. If you are not in your seat, only a signed note from a teacher will excuse the tardy.
2. No food or drink except water is to be present in the classroom in accordance with the school handbook. Gum is okay, just make sure it goes to the trash can when done.
3. Please stay in your seat until the bell rings at the end of class.
4. Keep your lanyard on and make sure it is visible while in class.
5. Cell phones need to stay out of sight, stay off of smartwatches, and no earbuds unless directed to by the instructor.
6. Please treat everyone and everything with respect.
7. If done with work that is assigned to you please have something academic to work on to stay ahead in all of your academics.
8. Ipads are only in use when directed to do so by the instructor.

9. When Ipads are in use, they are only to be used at the task at hand. Failure to do so will result in loss of ipad privileges. Repeat offense may result in further disciplinary actions.
10. Everyone will be better off if only one person talks at a time.
11. Ask questions, particularly if something seems difficult.
12. Be careful with all classroom materials, especially your books. Take your materials with you after class including garbage, to keep the room clean.
13. Bring your own pens, papers, books, etc. every day.
14. Not everything in class can necessarily be made up. Please try to be here and complete any absent work as soon as possible.
15. All of you are talented enough to do the assigned work without any help from each other. If you need help with completing an assignment, I am more than willing to answer questions before the assignment is due. "Working together" does not mean sharing answers. All of your work should reflect your own individual expression of the subject matter and should not be rephrased or copied off someone else. Your work should be yours, and not be cooperated by or from someone else unless specifically told.
16. In group projects and activities, all members of the group are expected to contribute equally to the overall success of the project.
17. In this room, students are graded on production, not talent. Be prepared to prove yourselves over and over again but always keep in mind that I want you to do well.
18. Remember that your performance and behavior in this class is your responsibility and yours alone. A major part of maturity is accepting responsibility without blaming other people.
19. Things happen in life that do not appear to be fair from all perspectives---this classroom is no exception. Not everything will always seem fair to everyone, but part of growing up is learning to understand and deal with it.
20. There may be times throughout the year that I give you the chance to do optional work to raise your grade throughout the semester, however, these cannot be banked for the whole semester. You have due dates where you can turn these in so it would be good to do them when they are assigned.

