

Sharyland High School Honors U.S. GOVERNMENT

Mr. Bodner

Room 218

Tutoring Schedule

Monday-Wednesday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

Course Description

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Student Learning Outcomes

The students will explain the origin and development of the constitutional democracy in the United States.

The students will demonstrate an understanding of our federal system.

The students will describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.

The students will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and
judicial
branches of the federal government.

The students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties.

The students will analyze the election process.

The students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

The students will analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Course Requirements

1. Attend class.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Read assigned materials by due dates.
4. Completion of exams, short quizzes and a cumulative final examination.
5. Completion of other daily work.
6. Additional guidelines and procedures will be disseminated in class.

The scheduled exams assigned are 60% of the final grade. The short quizzes will focus on current course reading assignments and the other daily work will be 40% of the final grade. If you miss a quiz, exam or assignment it is your responsibility to arrange for a make-up with me. Makeups will either be done through appointment with me. The course grading scale is:

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|---|--------------|
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 59 and below |

The final exam will be cumulative in nature, in other words, it will test you on all the material that we will have covered in the semester.

Program Learning Outcomes

This class contributes to the following program learning outcomes:

- Students will identify the topics studied in the American politics subfield of political science and the tools used to study those topics.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States;
- Demonstrate an understanding of our federal system;
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice;

- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government;
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties;
- Analyze the election process;
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens;
- Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Core Objectives

In completing this course, the students will demonstrate the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making;
- **Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Students with an excused absence from school (including off-campus suspension) will have the opportunity to make up missed work at the rate of one day for one day missed, with a maximum of five days. Students who are absent but had prior notice of a major or minor assignment must complete the assignment on the first day back to school. Students will receive a zero for any major or minor assignment not made up within the allotted time. **It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to take any missed assignments not the teacher's nor the counselor's responsibility.**

Students with an unexcused absence may not make up missed work; however, if the unexcused absence is determined to be caused by an extenuating circumstance, makeup work may be allowed, but the grade for the makeup work will be no higher than a grade of 70.

Students will be given up to three additional school days to redo a failing major assignment, which in this course is one of the four exams, but the grade will be no higher than a grade of 70.

Students will be given 3 additional days to make up a major assignment, which in this course is one of the four exams, but the grade will be no higher than a grade of 70.

If 50% or more of students in a class fail a major assignment, which in this course is one of the four exams, the entire class will receive reteaching of the content using a different instructional strategy from the original presentation. All students will be given an alternative major assignment. The students will receive the higher of the two grades earned.