

Course Syllabus for 12th Grade American Government

Contact Information:

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Room: 310

Plan: 5th Period

Course Information: Text – Magruder's American Government by Pearson

I would like to welcome you to 12th grade Government. My number one goal as your teacher is to provide a safe and challenging learning environment. I am excited about the school year, and if you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to meet with me. I am available before school, after school, or by appointment as needed.

This course is designed to build upon and add to your previous learning of history, government, economics, and geography to assist you in becoming an informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizen in a democracy. We will look at how the Constitution embodies the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy.

Topics of Study: (Tentative)

- I. Role of Government
- II. Principles & Foundations of the U.S. Constitution
- III. Institutions of the National Government
- IV. State and Local Government
- V. The Political Process
- VI. Comparative Government and Economics
- VII. Civil Liberties & Civil Rights in American Democracy

Objectives:

By the end of this course, you should be able to answer the following questions:

- What are core civic values inherent in the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence?
- How has the United States Constitution been able to sustain American government over time?
- What are the rights, privileges, and responsibilities in becoming an active civic participant?
- How are the three branches of government organized, and what is their purpose and function?
- Describe the role of political parties and the various ways those parties affect our government system.
- What is the role of the United States Government in the international community?
- How is the Kansas Court system structured?

Grading Policy:

Grades will be calculated according to the regular grading scale of 90% = A, 80% = B, etc. I do not grade on a "curve" because I want everyone in this class to succeed and do their personal best, regardless of how the rest of their classmates perform. My philosophy behind each grade is this: "A" is going above and beyond the assigned expectations; "B" is going beyond the expectations; "C" is complying with the expectations; "D" is did not meet most of the expectations; "F" is failure to meet any of the expectations.

Your assignments will include:

1. Reading – You should read every assigned chapter. Reading is the most important on-going assignment for the year.
2. Pre-tests/chapter assignments – You may be given pre-tests for chapters. The pre-tests/chapter assignments will be important items to prepare for your tests.
3. Quizzes – You may have a quiz at any time over the material we have covered in class.
4. Tests – You will have some form of assessment over every chapter. I will give you notice about what kind of test to prepare for.

5. Current Events- You will be required to turn in one current event each week. History is happening around us on a daily basis, and what better way to take advantage of this, than by spending class time on current events each week.
6. Projects – Generally, you will have one project per quarter. I will give you information on the project for the first quarter soon.

Attendance/Makeup Policy:

The BVN Social Studies Department has adopted the following guidelines regarding late or missing homework:

1. All student work must be completed by the Progress Report dates unless specific arrangements have been made between teacher and student.
2. Students must be prepared to take any missed assessment upon return to school after and absence unless arrangements have been made between teacher and student. **In other words, if you are in class for the entire unit, and then miss the day before the test or the test date, you will take the test on the day you return to school.** It will be the student’s responsibility to make those arrangements, and all assessments must be made up within one week of the student’s return.
3. Long term assignments are due on the due date regardless of student absence. Students will be penalized for late assignments in accordance with the course syllabus.
4. All late daily work will be assessed beginning at 50% credit. However, students are allowed two days without penalty to make up daily work for each day of an excused absence. Because assignments are intended to prepare students for assessments, daily work will not be accepted beyond the assessment for that unit.

I will not give extra credit assignments, but a small amount of points may be available occasionally.

It will be important for you to keep up with all work assigned. Start out on the right foot by turning in all of your assignments. Level of performance necessary to successfully complete this course:

1. Complete all daily assignments
2. Pass written exams
3. Participate in class discussions/activities
4. Complete special assignments/projects

Journal Entries:

All class periods will begin with an open-ended question or prompt to which you will be expected to respond in writing and share your responses with the class. You will receive a grade for your journal entries when your spiral notebook is collected. These questions may appear on tests and quizzes.

Supplies: (You will need the following items for class)

1. A good attitude, ready to learn
2. Some type of notebook that can be used for organization
3. A spiral notebook that will be left in class
4. Writing utensils – paper, pencil, pen when required
5. Student planner

Communication:

If an extenuating circumstance (such as severe illness, death in the family, etc.) occurs during the school year and you are not able to complete a project or assignment on time, please communicate with me. If you let me know about your situation **BEFORE** the project is due, I will work with you to adjust the deadline accordingly. However, if you approach me **AFTER** the project is due I will be unable, at that point, to work with you on the due date.

Let’s have a great year!

Course syllabus is subject to change at teacher’s discretion

Student (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ Date _____

Parent (Sign) _____ Date _____