

American Government Syllabus

Mrs. Devore

Room 703

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Course Number: American Government

Course Description: Specific content to be covered should include but not be limited to an understanding of the foundations of American Government, major provisions of the constitution, powers and duties of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the role of state and local government, political parties, and the election process.

Prerequisites: None

Course Content: The purpose of this course is to enable students to gain an understanding of American government and political behavior that is essential for effective citizenship and active involvement in a democratic American society.

Course Objectives: Students will be able to understand...

- a. interrelationship between American government and the American economic system
- b. documents that shape our political traditions, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers
- c. functions of the three branches of government at the local, state and national levels
- d. Florida government, including the State Constitution
- e. Municipal and county government
- f. the evolving role of political parties and interest groups in determining government policy
- g. how rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic state have evolved and been interpreted
- h. contemporary political issues
- i. career opportunities available in government services
- j. importance of civil participation in the democratic political process
- k. role of women and diverse cultural groups in the development of our political system

Grade Components: Daily grades will include participation in individual and cooperative learning activities, warm-ups, focus lessons, quizzes, tests, projects and a comprehensive semester exam. Grades will be calculated by adding up your total points on assignments and dividing it by the total number of points possible during the nine weeks. An assignment tally sheet will be provided so, students can calculate his/her own

grades as assignments are returned to them. Students may also ask for a grade print out on Fridays.

Grade Distribution:	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
	90%-100%	A
	89%-80%	B
	79%-70%	C
	69%-60%	D
	59%-0	F

Text and other Resource Material:

Prentice Hall Magruder's American Government
The Ledger Newspaper

Classroom Expectations: Students are expected to be in class on time each day. In the event of an emergency or illness, the parent or guardian must excuse the absence. It is the responsibility of the student to request make-up work immediately following an absence. Only assignments given during an excused absence can receive full credit. Students are also required to show respect in the following ways:

- 1) Respect Property- Keep your area clean, neat, and safe
- 2) Respect Authority- Show respect and follow directions
- 3) Respect for Others- Show courtesy and tolerance; respect differences; and cooperate with others
- 4) Respect for self- Be successful and reach your full potential