United States and Arizona Government Syllabus

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\* I am in C226 for 1st and 2nd periods, then in C243 for 3rd and 4th.

*Course Overview*

Welcome to the class! I am thrilled to teach Government as I find it completely relevant and impactful on our daily lives.

This course introduces students to the requirements and demands of democratic citizenship. This course will help develop informed, responsible participation in American political life by forming competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of American Constitutional democracy. This course studies the nature and function of political relationships: citizen to citizen, citizen to local community, citizen to state, and citizen to the nation. In short, United States/Arizona Government will act as a finishing course of the social studies, preparing students to take their rightful place as full, active, and responsible members of American society while simultaneously integrating in them an appreciation for the past as it relates to the present and preparing them for the possibilities of their future.

*Course Objectives*

There are four parts to the class:

1. United States Constitution. The class will study the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the development of the Constitution, amending the Constitution and powers granted by the Constitution. The first part also looks at Federalism and the structure and functions of Federalism. The last part of the unit will look at Arizona, the initiative and referendum process, three branches of Arizona government and Arizona today.
2. The three branches of government. The students will understand the constitutional requirements for office, how a bill becomes a law, the structure and function of the dual court system, judicial review, and the roles of the president.
3. Political structure. The class will study socialization, political parties and their function, the media, campaigns and interest groups. The third unit also looks at how one is influenced to vote and how one votes.
4. Public policy. The class will analyze decisions regarding education, healthcare, economic, foreign and defense policies to determine the challenges facing American decision-makers.

*Course Requirements and Grading*

Grades for this course will be determined by a combination of three factors: in-class examinations/quizzes, projects, and class participation and preparedness. Readings are expected to be completed before the class period!

Exams will consist of essay questions and identification items, and will cover material from both readings and lectures. They will test both mastery of important concepts and the ability to integrate ideas discussed in class. Each will cover material from the major sections of the course. Additionally, to ensure that students are completing assigned readings in a timely manner, there will be *at least* 10 reading quizzes during the course of the semester. These should be very easy for those who have read, and very difficult for those who have not.

Students will also be responsible for three independent analytical projects during the course of the semester. Assigned project topics will be distributed at least two weeks prior to the due date for the projects. Projects will be expected to incorporate material from the assigned readings. These projects will be graded according to the soundness and intellectual rigor of their argument, their use of relevant class material (both from reading and lecture), and the quality of their written expression.

Finally, class participation is a very valuable part of the learning experience in this course. Questions are welcomed, and time will often be set aside for discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share their questions, comments, criticisms, and insights with others. This course will be greatly enriched if people with views across the political spectrum voice their opinions on the important and often controversial issues that we will discuss. Simply showing up for class, while necessary for a good participation grade, is not sufficient. Conversely, if you have classroom discipline issues, they will affect your grade negatively.

The grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 59% and below

\*This class is required to graduate. Please take this seriously!

*Due Dates and Late Work Policy*

All assignments are due on the date posted, when requested by the teacher. Assignments turned in after they are requested will be marked down fifty percent (50%). No exceptions for printing, trips to lockers, drop-offs by parents, etc.

*Attendance and Sweep*

Excessive absences in this course will have a negative impact on your grade, as you are responsible for any material or work missed. You are allowed 10 absences (both excused and unexcused). You will be dropped on the 11th absence. You will be swept if not in class by the last bell.

*Course Materials*

The following materials are **required** in class each day: readings, notebook/paper, pen or pencil. No pass will be issued to obtain these.

*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism*

The MPHS Student Handbook provides definitions of what is expected of your work. If you are found to be in violation of this policy, then corrective steps will be taken.

*Classroom Rules and Procedures*

As young adults, I expect you to act accordingly. This means:

Be on time.

Be prepared.

No talking at inappropriate times (such as during instruction), out-of-turn, or while another has the floor.

Do your own work, and do not pass off another’s work as your own.

No texting, sleeping, or any other disrupting activity.

No inappropriate language.

Follow all directions the first time they are given.

Respect yourself.

Respect others and their property and their opinions.

Respect this classroom, this campus, and your leaders.

Be ready to participate.

Do your homework so we can have intelligent discussions.

Work to your best potential.

*School-Wide Behavior Plan*

If a student’s behavior is unbecoming of a mature, young adult and is disruptive to the learning environment the following will take place:

1.     Verbal warning/student conference with teacher

2.     Teacher notification to parent/guardian (email or phone call depending on situation)

3.     Written referral/administrative action\*

4.     Conference with teacher, parent/guardian, student, and administrator

\*Severe infractions will result in immediate administrative action

Please visit the Canvas Site ([www.tempeunion.instructure.com](http://www.tempeunion.instructure.com)) and take the Syllabus Quiz to accept these policies and procedures. Also, upload your biography in the Welcome Assignment. These are due by Thursday.