

Government

Course Overview

American Government is a survey course covering the foundations, behaviors, branches, and interactions of the American Government.

During the first portion of our survey we will build an understanding of the structure of the American Government by exploring five units, these are:

- Foundations
- Political Behavior
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- Comparative political systems
- State and local government.



Using our background from the first five units we will finish our course by exploring our final two units:

Throughout this term we will be integrating all aspects of Culture into our analysis. We will also spend considerable time on **current events** and the current U.S. political situation as it relates to world politics and international relations.

Special Projects

There will be both individual and group projects throughout the year that will constitute a portion of your grade. Classroom time will be provided for projects, however, these projects will be completed mostly outside of class.

Students will be required to participate in/observe

some type of political activity. This, for the most part, will take place outside of school hours. Students will be responsible for their own scheduling and transportation.

As representatives of Woodcreek High, Students will be held accountable for negative behavior.

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Classroom Policy

There are two policies that I strictly enforce:

1. Students will not interfere with another student's right to learn.
2. Students will not interfere with the teacher's right to teach.

Classroom Behavior

In our classroom, students are expected to adhere to school rules set forth in the Woodcreek Student Handbook. Specifically, students are expected to:

1. Come to class on time and be prepared to work.
2. Always use appropriate language. Rude, disrespectful, or inappropriate comments will not be tolerated.
3. Stay in class until dismissed.
4. Act in a respectful manner

Cheating on an exam or an individual assignment one shows me that one does not respect this class nor one's individual work enough to do their best on their own.

Consequences

Violation of classroom rules will result in the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Student/ Teacher conference
3. Office referral/ detention assigned

Cheating

Cheating on an exam or an individual assignment one shows me that one does not respect this class nor one's individual work enough to do their best on their own. I take any act of cheating very personally. Any student involved in cheating will lose credit for that assignment. A second cheating offense will result in the student's failure of the class: a grade of "F."

Please don't test me on this one.

Attendance/ Make-up Work

Regular attendance is expected for maximum education. If absence cannot be avoided, students will be held responsible for all material covered during their absence. Students should check the class website or call a classmate when absent to determine what material was covered and when assignments are due. Two days are allowed per absent day for make up work.

Classmate

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

“Extra credit should never be seen as an opportunity to supersede the coursework...After all, you must first have credit in order to get extra credit.”

Extra Credit

Every Monday we will spend time discussing current events. Each student has the opportunity to bring in three (3) current events for our discussion over the course of the semester. The student is responsible for explaining the article/ news

report to the class and fielding any questions that may arise. Each event is equivalent to one ordinary homework assignment (5 points).

Additionally, there will be a few additional extra credit projects available through-

out the semester.

These projects typically are based on further study of a particular topic that we will not have time to fully explore in class. However, these projects are reserved for those interested in going beyond the course of study within the class and who have been engaged with the topic up to that point. Extra credit should never be seen as an opportunity to supersede the coursework or as the only means of obtaining a passing grade. After all, you must first have credit in order to get extra credit.

Grading

Grades are recorded as points earned, not as a letter grade. It is to the student's benefit to turn in all work. Any grade is better than zero.

Grading follows straight percentage:

90 - 100 % A

80 - 89 % B

70 - 79 % C

60 - 69 % D

Below 60 % F



Goughland.com

Contact information for Mr. Gough, current assignments, grades, and project information can all be accessed through the internet . I will post our weekly agenda as well as our daily assignments on our class website, <http://www.goughland.com>.

In keeping with the technological nature of the 21st century a portion of this class will require students to access and interact on the class website. Please become familiar with the functions of this website.

A portion of our class time will be dedicated to computer lab use. Computers with internet access are also available in the library. Although students will be required to access this technology, students **DO NOT** need to own a computer for this course.

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Please detach, sign and return the following statement to me by January 12, 2007 at the latest:

I have read and discussed the course policy for the 2007 Government course with my student.

Students name printed

Parent/ Guardian signature

Date

Student signature

Date