

American Government Syllabus

Mrs. Crisosto

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Welcome to American Government! This semester-long course analyzes the intricate workings of the American government, its institutions, and your role in a democratic society. It is an exciting time to be an American Government student! We will be examining, discussing, and debating current events, and especially keeping an eye on the November presidential elections.

Curriculum

Government Alive! Power, Politics, and You will be our main text during the course. The text is entirely online at teachtci.com through a student subscription, which will be given by me at the beginning of the course. Notebook and reading challenges are also a part of this site, which will occasionally be used as graded assignments. The site offers numerous resources for students including: glossary cards, maps, and audio recordings of each lesson.

Major Topics

- The Nature of Power, Politics, & Government
- Foundations of American Government
- Political Participation and Behavior
- The Legislative Branch
- The Executive Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- The United States and the World

Required Materials

Students must come to each class prepared with the following materials:

1. Your school-issued Chromebook
2. Notebook for taking notes in class
3. Pens and pencils
4. Notecards (NOT digital notecards)
5. Planner (this will be determined in your Phoenix 104 course)

Grading

Grades are based on the following percentages:

Quizzes/Tests	40%
Projects/Assignments	40%
In Class Assignments & Participation	20%

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

A	100%-92%
A-	91.99%-89.5%
B+	89.49%-88%
B	87.99%-82%
B-	81.99%-80%
C+	79.99%-78%
C	77.99%-72%
C-	71.99%-70%
D+	69.99%-68%
D	67.99%-62%
D-	61.99%-60%
F	59.99% and below

Late Policy

Unexcused late work will be given 50% credit. Late work will only be accepted during the quarter in which it was assigned.

Work missed because of an excused absence may be submitted for credit after a period of time proportional to the length of absence.

No-name assignments will be given 75% credit.

Attendance

Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be in the classroom and prepared to learn when the bell rings. According to Ghidotti policy, you must attend Saturday School if you have more than 3 tardies during an academic quarter. Additionally, if a student is aware of upcoming absences, it is her/his responsibility to inform your teacher before the absences and arrange make-up or alternative work.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive an automatic zero on the assignment as well as a referral.

Technology

Chromebooks will be used in class each day. Please see Ghidotti's policy on technology use (provided separately). Cell phones are never allowed during class time. They are to be out of sight and turned off. If a parent or guardian needs to reach you during class, direct them to the Ghidotti office: (530) 274-5270.

Classroom Behavior

I expect the following general behavior of all students:

RESPECT: All students will respect themselves, their community members and their learning environment. Appropriate language will be used in the classroom—no swearing or other offensive remarks will be allowed.

READINESS: All students must attend class everyday and ready to actively participate in daily activities.

RESPONSIBILITY: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Please go over this information with your parents and post to the assignment in Schoology that you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) have read this syllabus in the appropriate assignment column. You can post any questions you may have about this class as well.

