



Teacher: Dr. Winston S. Marsh



COURSE SYLLABUS: SCHOOL YEAR 2017-20118

**LOCATION: PORTABLE 71**

**Availability 7: 00 A.M.-7: 30 A.M. by**

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**BENGAL NATION #MISSIONI'MPOSSIBLE**

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT REGULAR AND HONORS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will prepare students for life as informed citizens and community partners so that they can function successfully as decision makers in the political and economic systems. Students will examine the forces, factors and issues which shape government decision-making in the United States. They will analyze the wide range of interactions among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal and local governments and examine citizens' responses, especially in the areas of civil rights, civil liberties, economic policy decisions and international relations

**REQUIRED TEXT**

**Textbook: Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government by: John C. Geer, Wendy Schiller, Jeffery A. Segal, and Richard Herrera: Third Edition, CENAGE Learning, 20 Channel Center Street, Boston MA 02210, USA.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**After successfully completing this course:**

- 1. Students will understand government in its various forms as it exists in all parts of the world and trace the origins of the American form of government through its evolution from colonial times to the present.**
- 2. Students will examine the writings of the philosophers and the particular impact that John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Jean Jacque Rousseau and Montesquieu had on the Framers of the American Constitution.**



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3. Students apply fundamental political principles and concepts to make informed rational decisions within the political and economic systems.
4. Students recognize and identify ways that political institutions affect them as workers, producers, and consumers. They will be able to describe the specific role of the Constitution, the concepts of checks and balances and the unique roles of the legislative, executive, and the judicial branches of government.
5. Students will understand the concept of citizenship and its implications and responsibilities. They will examine all the rights that come with citizenship and the idea that these rights are forever changing and that they have to be guarded by each succeeding generation.
6. Students will understand Federalism and the role of the federal, state and local government in the system.
7. Students will understand how the United States government impacts the world community since its inception to the present and examine the role of the United States in international affairs.

**Course Expectations and Policies**

**Attendance:** Except for excused absences students are expected to be in class every school day.

- A pattern of unexcused absences (3 per quarter) will result in a phone call home. Future absences will result in a referral.
- A pattern of unexcused tardiness (3per quarter) will result in phone call home. Future tardiness will attract a referral.
- Any work missed due to absences for any reason is the student's responsibility to procure and complete within a two day period. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a zero entered on Pinnacle.

**Preparedness:** Students are expected to come to class prepared with the necessary materials including a class folder, paper, pen, pencil and other essentials.

**Academic Honesty:** All students are expected to demonstrate honesty by avoiding all temptations to copy other students' work or to submit work that they did not independently complete. All forms of plagiarism are to be



avoided.

### **COURSE EVALUATION AND RUBRICS**

**Homework:** There will be eight homework assignments valued at 100 points each.

Work must be submitted in a timely manner. These assignments will be placed on Canvas. To gain maximum points, all topics of the assignment must be addressed and submitted on Canvas on or before the due date. Grammar and spelling must be of the highest standard.

**Class Participation:** Students will follow a given format to respond to discussion questions posted on Canvas. Discussion questions must be responded to on or before the due date to avoid a score of zero

**Writing Activities:** Students will follow given guidelines to write one-page critique of current relevant issues. These will be responded to on Canvas on or before to due date to avoid a score of zero. Grammar and spelling must be of the highest standard.

**Tests:** Students will have advanced notice for all tests. For Chapter Tests, students will respond to 20 multiple choice questions valued at 5 points each. For Unit Tests students will respond to 50 questions valued at 2 points each. Tests will be placed on Canvas along with the due dates. Students must respond to all tests on or before the due dates to avoid scoring a zero.

### **Projects:**

Students will follow specific guidelines to complete a class project. To gain the maximum 300 points, all topics of the assignment must be addressed. Grammar and spelling must be of the highest standard. Students will post their projects on Canvas on or before the due date to avoid scoring zero.

### **Class Rules**

- **Be punctual! Be in your seats when the bell rings, ready to begin work.**
- **No eating or drinking will be permitted in class.**



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- **No cell phones! No headsets! No music! No electronics during class**
- **Complete all assignments in a timely manner**
- **Raise your hands to be recognized. No shouting will be permitted.**
- **Remain in your seats until the bell rings. No standing at the doors.**

**GRADING SCALE:**

- 90 - 100% = A
- 87 - 89% = B+
- 80 - 86% = B
- 77 - 79% = C+
- 70 - 76% = C
- 67 - 69% = D+
- 60 - 66% = D
- 0 - 59% = F

A student's percentage will be determined by the total number of points earned on:

**Tests and Quizzes @ 40 %**  
 Projects,  
 Essays,  
 Classwork, and  
Homework @ 60 %

**Course Outline**

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments & Assessments
1	08/21/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction Government</li> <li>• Purpose of Government</li> <li>• Forms of Government</li> <li>• Democracy in the United States</li> </ul>	Functions of Government Homework Project: The Philosophers: The Ideas of John Locke
2	08/28/17	Roots of American Democracy Events Leading to the new Constitution	Class Debate: The Ratification Process Test 1: Chapters 1 and 2
3	09/04/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution</li> <li>• An Enduring Document</li> </ul> Applying the Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion: Blueprint for Government</li> </ul>
4	09/11/17	Federalism	Debate: Decentralization Test: Chapters 3 and 4
5	09/18/17	Powers of Congress	Discussion: Types of Powers



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6	09/25/17	The Presidency	Debate: Executive Privileges and Orders. Tests: Chapters 5 and 6
7	10/02/17	How the Executive Branch Works	Debate The Federal Bureaucracy: Tests Chapter 7
8	10/09/17	The Federal Court System	Landmark Cases: Impact on the Equality Issues. Test Chapter 8
9	10/16/17	Review: First 8 Chapters	Mid-Term Exams

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments & Assessments
	10/23/17	Political Parties: Impact on Democracy COURSE SYLLABUS: SCHOOL YEAR 2017-20118	Debate: Political Inclusion
11	10/30/17	Civil Liberties	Discussion: Protecting Constitutional Rights: First Amendment Rights: Test Chapter 9 and 10
12	11/06/17	Civil Rights	Debate: Civil Rights Act of 1964: Citizenship and Immigration
13	11/13/17	The Electoral Process: Understanding Elections	Discussion: Election Day and the Voters. The Power of the Vote. Test: Chapter 11 and 12
14	11/20/17	Due Process and the Fourteenth Amendment	Debate: The People's Right to be Secure
15	11/27/17	First Amendment: Freedom of Expression	<i>Discussion: The Limits of Free Speech: Tests Chapter 13</i>
16	12/04/17	International Relations: Foreign Policy Choices in a Complex World	Debate: The World Hot Spots and Foreign Policy Challenges
17	12/11/17	Comparative Political and Economic Systems	Compare and Contrast Democratic and Authoritarian Government Systems
18	12/18/17	Mid-Term Exam	All Chapters

### **Breakdown of Points for Economics Honors:**

Tests:	600
Homework	800
Projects:	300
Other:	<u>300</u>

**TOTAL: 2000**



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*\* Please note that the syllabus and course calendar/schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read through and discussed  
(Print student name)

this course syllabus with my teacher today in class. I understand exactly what is expected of me in this class and what my responsibilities are for this semester. I am aware of the academic policies and procedures that I am to follow. I am also aware of the procedures for my evaluation and assessment in this course and how my final grade will be calculated. I am aware of and understand that excessive absences and tardiness are not tolerated and can negatively affect my class grade. I know that if I need extra help or have concerns I should speak with my teacher to have these issues resolved.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an email address? Please write below:

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_