

SYLLABUS
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HONORS
Class Location: Portable #3

Instructor: Mr. Farley

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Course Description

Students will acquire a comprehensive understanding of government and political behavior. Concepts and skills will be developed through an evaluation of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, an analysis of the roles of the three branches of government at the local, state and national levels, a comparative view of the changing nature of political parties and interest groups in determining government policy, and evaluation of citizen rights and responsibilities in a democratic state, and the importance of civic participation in the political processes.

This is a nine-week course earning half a credit. The second nine weeks is Economics Honors.

Grades: are based on the following:

1. Guided Reading reviews; these cover the textbook material and facilitate reading and comprehension of that material.
2. Written assignments based on class content, current events or projects.
3. Subject (chapter) and Unit test.
4. Notebook grades will be based on participation and will be given the same weight as one test grade.

Late work: Assignments turned in after their due date will be deducted by 10% for each day they are late. Ex: if you turn in a writing assignment two school days after its original due date your grade will start at 80%.

Textbook/Supplementals:

United States Government Principles in Practice. Fraga, Holt McDougal

Course Content:

The class is broken into three categories that follow the NG Sunshine State Standards for American Government as well as the Common Core Standards in Literacy.

1. Foundations of American Government
2. Political Processes
3. Structure of Federal Government

The following are the Florida State standards for what students should know about Civics and American Government, The class will thoroughly cover these standards:

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards:

SS.912.C.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system. Unit 1

SS.912.C.2 Title: Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system. Unit2

SS.912.C.3 Title: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government. Unit 3,4 and 5

SS.912.C.4 Title: Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of United States foreign policy. Unit 6

Reading and Critical Thinking skills to be acquired and practiced:

- Finding Main Ideas
- Sequencing Events/Chronological Order
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Drawing Conclusion
- Analyzing Point of view/Forming and Supporting Opinions
- Recognizing Bias, Propaganda, and Stereotypes
- Using Context Clues and Supporting Details
- Connecting to literature/Using prior knowledge/Setting a purpose for reading/re-reading

Pacing Guide:

Pacing Guide:

Week 1-2

Foundations of Government:

- Purpose of Government
- Forms of Government
- Ideals of American Democracy
- Political Culture
- Enlightenment Influences

Week 3 -4

Origins of Government

- * Other Influences
- * American Independence
- * Articles of Confederation
- * Constitutional Convention

Week 4-5

The Constitution

- *Ratification
- *Federalist/Anti-Federalist
- *Representative Government
- *Separation of Powers
- *Checks and Balances
- *Amending the Constitution

Week 5-6

Federalism

- *The Federalist Papers
- *State vs. Local Government Powers
- *McCulloch v Maryland

Week 7-8

The Congress

- *Types of Powers
- *House vs. Senate
- *Committees
- *How a Bill becomes a Law
- *Women in Congress

Week 8-9

The Presidency:

- *Powers of the Executive Branch
- *Electoral College
- *Executive Office of the President
- *The Cabinet

Week 10-11

The Bureaucracy

- *Pendleton Act
- *Executive Departments

Week 11-13

The Judicial Branch

- * Dual Route to the US Supreme Court
- *Nomination and Confirmation of Federal Judges

- *Independent Agencies
- *Budget Process
- *Federal Reserve

- *Federal Court System
- *Landmark Cases

Week 13-15

The Political Process:

- *Public Opinion
- *Interest Groups
- *PACs
- *Political Parties
- *Political Campaigns
- *Factions and Federalist #10

Week 16-17

Civil Liberties

- *Freedom of Expression
- *Freedom of Religion
- *Rights of the Accused

Week 17-18

Civil Rights

- *Rights of Minority Groups
- *Citizenship and Immigration

Information Letter:

To: Parents and Students:

In addition to the class syllabus and pacing guide, this information sheet is designed to inform you of issues essential to a productive and manageable class and school year.

Contact:

It is important for all concerned that communication be maintained throughout the semester. Updates on grades, behavior, and progress can be facilitated through pinnacle and email (william.c.farley@browardschools.com).

Absence/Missed Work

Pompano Beach high school has an attendance policy that will deter excessive absences. If you are absent for a class period or more you must check Mr. Farley's Edmodo site. All assignments will be listed. Please ask Mr. Farley or a classmate to provide clarification. Place all make-up work on my desk within the allotted time frame.

Class Room Property

Please do not sit on the desk or on the computer table in the classroom. The teachers' desk and chair are "off-limits". Please keep the room CLEAN. At the end of each class please pick up trash that may be on the floor and dispose of it in the one of the two wastebaskets in the room. Do Not write on desk.

Security

Please **turn off** all cell phones upon entering Mr. Farley's classroom.

The classroom door shall remain locked from the outside at all times. Students are not to answer the door unless asked to do so by Mr. Farley.

In the event of a full lock down it is imperative that students stay away from the windows and the door. All cell phones must be turned off.

HARRASSMENT/ANTI-BULLYING

Broward policy toward bullying is an effort to confront any attempt deemed bullying, whether directed to a student or a staff member. School board policy demands action and students will be held accountable.

ATTITUDE/BEHAVIOR:

This is an honor-level course and the expectation is that all students will conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner. Respect for all, tolerance for opposing viewpoints, and being on time for class are essential to a successful class.

WARNINGS:

Disrupting learning or teaching	Leaving trash/waste in the room or by your desk
Eating in class	Bathroom passes that exceed five (5) minutes
Sleeping in class	Tardies

REFERRALS:

Fighting	Leaving class without permission
Defiance	Cheating/plagiarism
Dress code violation	Destructive behavior/vandalism
Cell phone violation	

CHEATING POLICY:

Pompano Beach High School prides itself on preparing students for the rigors of college. It is therefore imperative that students do their own work so that they learn content accurately. The faculty expects academic integrity; therefore, students must abide by the PBHS Honor Code when they complete assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, and all other work, both in class and out. Every violation of the Honor Code will result in an immediate referral to administration.

It is my hope that your experience in Government and Economics will be a rewarding one. Adherence to the stated policies will make that possible. Please print and sign below and include email address and phone number, if possible. Detach and submit by Thursday, August 22, 2013.

Sincerely,
Mr. William Cody Farley

I have read and understand the syllabus/pacing guide of U.S. Government class. I have read and understand the Information sheet of Mr. Farley's classroom.

Student name _____ email _____

Parent name _____ email _____

Parent signature _____

Parent Daytime Phone # _____