

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HONORS

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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 an 18-week course earning half a credit. This course is required for graduation.

Textbook:

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 Florida Standards for Literacy.

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

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

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

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

SS.912.C.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.

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

Florida Standards for Reading and Critical Thinking skills to be acquired and practiced:

- Finding Main Ideas
- Sequencing Events/Chronological Order
- Comparing and Contrasting, Drawing Conclusions
- 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:

Week 1-2

Foundations of Government:

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

Week 4-5

The Constitution

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

Week 7-8

The Congress

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

Week 10-11

The Bureaucracy

- *Pendleton Act
- *Executive Departments
- *Independent Agencies
- *Budget Process
- *Federal Reserve

Week 13-15

The Political Process:

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

Week 3 -4

Origins of Government

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

Week 5-6

Federalism

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

Week 8-9

The Presidency:

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

Week 11-13

The Judicial Branch

- * Dual Route to the US Supreme Court
- *Nomination & Confirmation of Federal Judges
- *Federal Court System
- *Landmark Cases

Week 16-18

Civil Liberties

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

Civil Rights

- *Rights of Minority Groups
- *Citizenship and Immigration

Class Grading

Core Reading Time: Silent sustained reading is a critical component of the learning process. Its purpose is to build independent reading endurance and foster the development of metacognition. Students will be required to participate and will receive a grade for silent sustained reading every day. Credit will not be awarded to students who choose to nap, use their cell phones, or daydream silent sustained reading. Daily before, during and after reading strategies will be used to increase comprehension and accuracy.

Notebook: Creating an active and engaging notebook is an important part of this course. Take pride in it so you enjoy using it. Notebooks will be checked for a grade.

Homework and Seat Work: During class, students are expected to work in their seats alone, in pairs or groups according to teacher instruction. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Points will NOT be awarded for those who copy homework and/or seat work from another student. Copying/ cheating destroys the teacher-student relationship.

Guided Reading: Each topic of study has a correlating set of guided reading exercises that you will be responsible for understanding. These exercises are assigned in advance and are typically due on the day of the test. Advanced notice will be given. Guided reading grades are equal to approximately 50% of a test grade. For example, if a test is worth 100 points, the guided reading will be worth 50 points. You are required to keep all returned papers as they will be used as final exam review materials.

Quizzes and Tests: Vocabulary and reading quizzes will be announced and unannounced in order to assess student comprehension and completion of assigned reading. Students who are absent will be permitted to make up a unit test for credit in accordance with PBHS and School Board attendance policies.

Make-up Policy

1. Make up work is allowed for full credit and grade for excused absences.
2. Make up work is allowed for unexcused absences per the following. Ms. Hanna may, at her discretion, record a 10% reduction in the grade for homework, and record the lowest passing grade (60%) for tests and projects that meet standards of proficiency.
3. All make-up work must be submitted within two days, not including the day of return, for each day of an absence.
4. Previously assigned work and tests is due the day of return. All tests are announced at least one week in advance.

Class Procedures

It is my hope that your class experience will be rewarding. Adherence to these policies make that possible.

- Check **Edmodo** every day!
- Keep our classroom **neat and tidy** so we can all enjoy a pleasant learning environment. Failure to comply will result in after-school detention.
- Students must **take responsibility** for their own learning. Daily learning goals are posted. Students should motivate themselves to understand and meet these goals.
- **Cell phones** must be out of sight unless they are permitted for a specific activity. Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in after-school detention and the device will be turned in to administration.
- Students are not permitted to **sleep** in class. You are required to manage your time to include adequate rest. Sleeping in class will result in after-school detention.

- Students must **sign-out** to go to the restroom (with permission), guidance, the media center, etc. Please do not ask to use the restroom when Ms. Hanna is addressing the class as a whole. Being out of the classroom for more than the allotted time or being in an unauthorized area of the school will result in after-school detention.
- If you are **absent** for a class period you must check Edmodo and/or email the instructor. Please ask Ms. Hanna or a classmate to provide clarification. Turn in all makeup work within the allotted time frame.

HARRASSMENT/ANTI-BULLYING

SBBC policy toward bullying is an effort to confront any behavior deemed bullying, whether directed to a student or a staff member. School board policy demands action and students will be held accountable. All students and staff are entitled to a harassment free environment.

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.

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 the required consequence per the Honor Code. See opening day information for further details.

It is my hope that your experience in US Government 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. Detach and submit by Thursday, August 25, 2016.

Please sign and return this page:

I have read and understand the syllabus/pacing guide of Ms. Hanna’s U.S. Government class.

Student name _____ email _____

Parent _____ email _____

Parent signature _____

Parent Daytime Phone # _____