



# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

\*Fall Semester: Aug. 7-Dec.21, 2017

\*Spring Semester: Jan. 8 -May 24, 2018

## TEACHERS:

Mr. James  
Mr. Young

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Room 333  
Room 303

**Text:** *United States Government: Democracy in Action* Glencoe McGraw Hill ©2006 Price (about) \$70.00

**Course Description:** This course is an overview of the American Political system and its three branches of government as prescribed in the Georgia Performance Standards. State and local government will be studied—as well as criminal justice, civic responsibility and current events.

## Agenda

- Unit 1 Foundations of American Government (Chapter 1, 2 & 25)
- Unit 2 The United States Constitution (Chapter 3-4)
- Unit 3 Legislative Branch (Chapter 5, 6 & 7)
- Unit 4 Executive Branch (Chapter 8, 9 and 10)
- Unit 5 Judicial Branch (Chapters 11-15)
- Unit 6 State and Local Government (Chapters 23-24)
- Unit 7 Civic Responsibility (Chapter 16-18)

***TESTING DATES PER UNIT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE!  
PLEASE ACCESS GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR SPECIFICS!***

<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
Unit 1 – August 22 (Tuesday)	Unit 1 - TBD
Unit 2 – September 12 (Tuesday)	Unit 2 – TBD
Unit 3 – September 27 (Wednesday)	Unit 3 – TBD
Unit 4 – October 17 (Tuesday)	Unit 4 – TBD
Unit 5 – November 7 (Tuesday)	Unit 5 – TBD
Unit 6 – November 16 (Thursday)	Unit 6 – TBD
Unit 7 – December 12 (Tuesday)	Unit 7 – TBD

**Assessments:** Every 6 weeks a progress report will be distributed to each student. Course grades will be determined by the following scale. Grades can be accessed through Home Access Center (HAC).

Category	% of Grade
Test	35
Classwork/Homework	15
Quiz	15
Project	15
Final	20



## ATTENDANCE & TARDIES:

- Students are expected to be in class and ready to begin work when the second and final bell sounds. Upon the first tardy, you will be given a written warning. The second tardy will earn a private detention, the third tardy an administrative referral and two days public detention, and the fourth tardy will earn an administrative referral, Saturday school, and possible further consequences.
- If you are absent, you must obtain an admit slip from the attendance office before going to class. It is your responsibility to show your admit slip to your teacher, get it signed, and ask what you missed.
- Students with an excused absence will be granted an extension to complete all missed assignments equal to the duration of the absence, with no penalty. Students with an unexcused absence may make up missed assignments, but the work may be treated as late work for partial credit.
- If you are absent the day before a quiz or test, you are still expected to take the assessment **on the day you return!** If you are absent on the day of a quiz or test, you are expected to take the assessment on the day you return! This is because quizzes and tests are announced well in advance.
- Teachers reserve the right to give a comparable and fair alternate assessment to any student who is absent during a graded assignment of any kind, including quizzes or tests.

## LATE WORK POLICY:

Students are required to submit assignments on the due date. If a student submits an assignment late, the penalty is as follows:

- 10% reduction in the score earned on that assignment PER DAY that the assignment is late
- After an assignment is 5 days late, there will be a 50% reduction in the score earned on that assignment. But, the deduction will never be more than 50%. So you are encouraged to turn in all assignments to still earn at least half-credit.
- **IMPORTANT:** To be eligible for recovery, ALL ASSIGNMENTS from throughout the semester must be turned in. There cannot be any 0s in the gradebook. Teachers will accept late work at any time until 10 days before the end of the semester. Please refer to the handbook for more details on this policy.

## RECOVERY POLICY:

1. Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below *cumulative* average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements. *Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.* At the teacher's discretion, recovery assignments can raise a grade up to a 75, but no higher.
2. Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.
3. So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

**\*Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by course. It is the responsibility of the student to ASK AND FULLY UNDERSTAND the recovery policy offered by their teacher. This conversation should be had well in advance of the end of the semester.**

## **HONOR CODE – from the school handbook:**

As members of Northview High School, we honor academic and personal integrity. We uphold the values of honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, and our mission is to instill excellence in academics.

Cheating has been defined as giving or receiving, in any form, information relating to a gradable experience including the use of sources of information other than those specifically approved by the teacher, either during or outside of class.

Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, visual exchanges (cheat sheets, copying, open books or notes, writing on hands, shoes, or desks, calculators, etc.), and verbal, electronic or coded exchanges. Other examples include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, discussing tests with students who have not taken the test, copying homework assignments, not citing sources, etc.

When a student is found to be cheating, the teacher may issue a grade of zero for the assignment. This assignment may not be made up nor will the student be eligible for recovery. It is the responsibility of each classroom teacher to adhere to this policy. The teacher will complete an Honor Code Violation form; have the student sign, and follow-up with a phone call to a parent/guardian. The office will mail a copy to the parent/guardian and place a copy in the student's disciplinary file. Honor Code violations will be reviewed when considering students for awards and recommendations.

A student who gives his/her original work to copy – in whole or in part – to another student to turn in as an original assignment is guilty of a very serious wrong. Such action constitutes willful participation in a deliberate deception; the student supplying the work should expect to be dealt with accordingly.

Upon teacher request, students may be required to submit research papers or other written work to turnitin.com. The website checks the submission for plagiarism, provides a receipt for the student to give to the teacher, and reports to the teacher that the student's work was not copied from any source.

The **first offense** of academic dishonesty results in a score of 0 for the assignment, and loss of ability to do any recovery. The student is also referred to the administrator, parents are notified, and notice goes in your permanent file. Further offenses include all of the above consequences plus further consequences such as ISS, OSS, removal from extracurricular activities, and more as deemed necessary by the administrator.

Examples of honor code violations: copying work or allowing another person to copy; plagiarizing work; cheating during quizzes/tests; discussing quizzes/tests/essays with other students

## **EXPECTATION – A SCHOLARLY ATMOSPHERE:**

- *Daily Preparation:* bring your textbook, an organized notebook, and writing utensils every day; bring your Chromebook, fully charged; be in the habit of writing down assignments and due dates
- *Focus on American Government:* If you are doing work for another subject in class, it may be confiscated.
  
- **CELL PHONE POLICY:** Phones are NOT allowed in class unless the teacher grants you specific permission to use it during a given class period for research. As soon as class begins, they should be OFF YOUR DESK AND OUT OF SIGHT. After the first one or two violations of this expectation, a WARNING will be given. After the next violation of this expectation, the phone will be CONFISCATED and returned at the end of the period. After the next violation, the phone will be TURNED IN TO AN ADMINISTRATOR.
  - ON TEST DAYS, you may NOT get out your phones when you are done with the test. They are to remain out of view for the entirety of the period. Violations of this policy on test days will result in more severe consequences than the ones outlined above.
  
- **CHROMEBOOK POLICY:** Please bring your Chromebook to class every day. Make sure to charge it every night so it can last through the entire school days. We will not necessarily use the Chromebooks every day. Wait until your teacher asks for you to open them up and start using them.

- *Headphones*: Headphones are not allowed in class unless you ask and the teacher grants you specific permission. Do not assume that when the teacher is not talking it is ok for you to put on headphones.
- *Being on Task*: You are in class to be an active participant in your own learning. You must commit to thinking and trying your best in this class. You are not here to fritter away an hour every day, but rather to challenge yourself and grow.
- *Assigned Seats*: This option will be used if students show a lack of maturity and self-control to be able to sit in seats of their own choice without being disruptive and unfocused.
- *Plagiarism*: See below for the full policy. As a reminder, unless the teacher explicitly says so, the assumption is that ALL assignments must be done individually and must be written in your own words. It is NOT OK to copy from the textbook or Internet! It is NOT OK to work with other students on assignments unless the teacher gives explicit permission!
- **Reading Time Policy**: Every day at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> period we will transition from our “normal” learning and teaching to announcements and 10 minutes of independent choice reading for all students and staff. The expectation is that you bring in a book of your choice to read every day during this allotted time. This is not time to be used for tests, lessons, labs, HW, assigned reading from one of your classes, or cell phones. It is time to breathe, relax, and enjoy a book!
  - If you need help selecting a book of interest, please ask any teacher, counselor, administrator, or parent for assistance.
  - Disruptive or uncooperative behavior will be handled through the normal disciplinary process.

#### **EXPECTATION – COMMENDABLE PERSONAL CHARACTER:**

Here at Northview, we have a high expectation of what it means to be a Titan. In and out of the classroom, a Titan consistently demonstrates these four pillars of what it takes to be a “good” person:

- *Integrity*: is honest; follows honor code; is on time; takes pride in one’s work; does the right thing
- *Positive Attitude*: speaks/thinks positively; follows directions; sees the value in the class content
- *Compassion*: assume good will on the part of the teacher; be a team player; respect and support others
- *Personal Responsibility*: Use time wisely; be prepared for all class assignments; strive for success; dress appropriately

#### **TEACHER AVAILABILITY:**

- The easiest way to contact us is through the email addresses listed at the top of the syllabus. We are available by appointment for extra help, study sessions, or make-up work. ***Students, please see your teacher if you are confused or concerned so that we may remedy the situation.*** Parents, please feel free to contact the teacher should you have any concerns or questions.