UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
2019/2020

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Classroom 188
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description
U.S. Government is a one-semester course designed to explore questions related to civic participation. The course is structured to promote your interaction with other members of the class and those taking Government this semester, as you examine various materials. You are expected to show growth in your knowledge, understanding and application of the subject matter and to demonstrate your problem-solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills. By the end of the semester you will have an in-depth understanding of the processes of government.

Central Questions of the Course
1. How do governments balance individual rights with the common good?
2. How/why does your vote count?
3. Who has the power and why?
4. How can abuse of power be avoided?

Evaluation and Activities
You will be graded on: assessments, projects, mastery assignments, binder checks, class participation and participation assignments. Daily attendance, completion of work, and class participation are all crucial components of your grade. To do well in this class you MUST participate.

The major activities of the course in which your participation is required include:
1. Writing and critical reading
2. Speaking
3. Research
4. Debates and class discussions
5. Assessments
6. Note-taking and completion of materials

Classroom Expectations
Respect and understanding of one another is critical as we explore our government and how it works. Whether you agree or disagree with the opinions of others it is critical that we recognize that our democracy was built on different ideas and compromise.

- Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Any plagiarized assignments will receive an automatic zero (0).
● Your attendance is critical to your success and I expect you to be in class every day. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what work you missed and what work needs to be made up. Please check our Google Classroom and while you were out folders.
● Assignments and work are largely posted in Google Classroom so it is important you have your Chromebook with you and charged every day.
● If you do not have your Chromebook you will not be allowed to use any other electronic device in its place. If you need to make up work as a result of not having your Chromebook it must be done on your time.
● Unless otherwise directed phones are not allowed to be used in the classroom. Phones should be in your backpack at all times. If I see your phone it will be placed in a brown paper bag and “parked” on a shelf for the remainder of class.
● Earbuds cannot be used during class unless otherwise directed. Earbuds should neither be visible nor in your ears.

Grades
Portfolio of Work (Mastery Assignments)
During the semester you will be completing a number of assignments that are designated portfolio items. On which you are required to obtain a grade of 80% or better demonstrating mastery of the course concepts. To successfully complete the course you will be submitting your portfolio of work. You are also required to take and pass a U.S. Constitution test at the end of the semester.

Homework Pass
Students receive a homework pass that allows for five assignments to be turned in late during the semester. Late is defined as up to the end of the unit. Work submitted after the end of the unit is only worth 50% of its original value.

Participation
In order to receive a grade of A students will be required to participate with a high level of engagement. Participation will be graded at the end of each unit. Remember, doing what you are asked or expected to do is average. To achieve an A or B in the class you must go over and above what is asked.

Quality of Work
As seniors in high school the expectation for all work turned in is that it is:
1. Complete.
2. Grammatically correct.

Materials Needed for Every Class
1. A binder with dividers (provided by the teacher) for each unit.
2. A pencil or pen to write with and a highlighter.
   ○ Please refrain from using red or neon colored ink.
3. Chromebook.