

Legacy High School
A Global Studies School



Course Expectations
US Government

2018-2019

Instructor: *Mr. Latas*

LHS Room 1321

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Course Scope:

This one-year course is a study of United States federal, state, local, and tribal governments evaluating the impact of political foundations, structures, processes, and institutions. Students apply constitutional principles to assess the growth and development of the United States government and political system. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the United States Government credit required for high school graduation.

Course Goals:

1. To explain in terms of concepts the components of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national, state, local, and tribal governments. [NS: C14.0]
2. To evaluate the contributions made by the founding fathers and other political philosophers toward establishing the basic principles of American democracy. [NS: H3.0, C13.0, C14.0]
3. To analyze the sources of public authority and political power and the manner in which the two relate to individual civil rights and liberties. [NS: H2.0, H3.0, E9.0, C13.0, C14.0, C16.0]

4. To assess the relationship between political beliefs and voter behavior of individuals in a democratic society. [NS: H3.0, C13.0, C15.0]
5. To synthesize the concepts of political parties, the media, and interest groups and their impact on the American political system. [NS: H1.0, H2.0, H3.0, C13.0, C15.0]
6. To critique the growth and development of American bureaucracy created to ensure the stability of the nation's social, economic, environmental, and political institutions. [NS: H2.0, G8.0, E9.0, E10.0, E11.0, C14.0, C15.0]
7. To investigate public policy networks that influence domestic and foreign agendas. [NS: H4.0, G8.0, E9.0, E10.0, E11.0, E12.0, C14.0, C15.0, C16.0]
8. To identify the causes and effects of the major political and economic systems of the world. [NS: H1.0, H2.0, H3.0, G5.0, G6.0, G7.0, G8.0, E9.0, E10.0, E11.0, E12.0, C16.0]
9. To apply the content literacy skills necessary to analyze historical documents, artifacts, and concepts. [NS: H1.0, H2.0, H3.0, H4.0, G5.0, G6.0, G7.0, G8.0, E9.0, E10.0, E11.0, E12.0, C13.0, C14.0, C15.0, C16.0]
10. To use information, media, and technology literacy skills necessary to research, communicate, and demonstrate critical thinking. [NS: H1.0, H2.0, H3.0, H4.0, G5.0, G6.0, G7.0, G8.0, E9.0, E10.0, E11.0, E12.0, C13.0, C14.0, C15.0, C16.0]

Textbooks

The following text(s) will be utilized in this course:

Richard C. Remy, Ph.D., John J. Partrick, Ed.D., David C. Saffell, Ph.D., Gary E. Clayton, Ph.D. *United States Government – Democracy in Action. Clark County Edition.* McGraw Hill Education 2010

Student Supplies

Students will need a notebook for note taking, as well as paper for various activities.. Students will need glue sticks, pens and pencils for writing test taking.

Tardy Policy

Tardiness is a serious disruption to the educational program. Every student is required to be in his/her seat when the tardy bell rings. With that in mind, the Legacy High School Tardy Policy will be strictly enforced. On the first and second tardy, the student will be warned; on the third tardy, the parent will be contacted; on the fourth tardy, a detention will be assigned; on the fifth and all subsequent tardies, the student will be sent to the deans' office and placed on a Required Parent Conference.

Grading Policy

- Grading Scale: 90% - 100%A
80% - 89% B
70% - 79% C
60% - 69% D
Below 60% F
Description of Grading Procedures:
Grades will be weighted as follows:
Tests 30%/Homework 20%/Assignments 20%/Projects 20%
- Semester Grades: 45% Quarter 1/3 Grade
45% Quarter 2/4 Grade
10% Semester Examination

Standards of Preparation: Students are expected to follow standard rules of grammar and spelling in all assignments completed. Students should write in complete sentences. **All class projects will be typed.**

- Make-up procedures:
 - After an absence, students will be expected to check the make-up work book on my table. Handouts will be available from the bookshelf or me.
 - Students must **obtain** make-up work within **three** days of an absence, unless other arrangements are made with

the teachers.

- Students are responsible for getting/requesting make-up work and scheduling before or after school to make-up tests/quizzes.

- Hours of Availability- Daily- I will be available most days after school. You may find me in room 1321 until 2:00 daily unless a parent conference or school meeting is scheduled. Students may make arrangements to meet with me after school. E-mail is the best and fastest way to reach me.

Attendance

After the seventh unexcused absence, students will be denied credit and will receive an “F” for the course.

Classroom Behavior Expectations

- You must be in the room when the bell rings. If you are on the other side of the door....you are tardy. Go and get a tardy pass.
- You must be **respectful** both to me and you fellow classmates. Do Not Talk when someone else has the floor.
- You must be **prepared** for class. Preparation means notebook, textbook, writing implement and ready to learn.
- Pick up all things on the floor before you leave for the day.
- If I see I Pods, MP3 players, cell phones, I will take them to the Deans’ Office.
Phones may only be used before school, after school and during lunch.
- I will dismiss class, not the bell.
- Tardies of more than 30 minutes will be recorded as absent.
- Passes will be issued through the blue slips and sign out sheet. **No blue slip No pass!**
- There is no eating/drinking (water only) or gum chewing during class time.
- Please do not damage your textbook.

Violations of classroom rules will result in progressive discipline. The first violation will be a teacher warning. The second violation will be a parent contact. The third violation the student will be placed on a teacher detention. On the fourth violation the student will be sent to the Dean’s office for disciplinary action.

Citizenship

Citizenship will be graded as follows: O = outstanding; S = Satisfactory; U = Unsatisfactory; and N = Needs improvement. Grades will be determined by participation in discussions, preparation, and courtesy to others in class and

timeliness to class in general.

Homework Policy

Homework will be those assignments assigned to students during the normal course of instruction in all classes regardless of level or subject.

1. Homework assignments will:
 - Be assigned as needed by all teachers regardless of subject area
 - Require no more than thirty (30) uninterrupted minutes daily to complete each assignment. Maximum homework assigned will be ninety (90) minutes per week. Completion time will vary with student.
 - Be relevant to the course and topic/subject being studied
 - Be used to extend or reinforce classroom learning
 - Be graded, returned, and posted no more than three (3) meeting days after collection
2. Unless otherwise indicated, homework will be due during the next meeting of the class
3. Regularly assigned homework will not ordinarily be assigned over holidays or weekends

Special Projects/Reports

Special projects/reports include but are not limited to research papers, book reports, visual presentations, and oral presentations. These projects will be used to assess student learning beyond the standard test of quiz or to enrich student learning through application.

1. Special projects/reports will:
 - Be periodically assigned
 - Be assigned in addition to the regularly assigned homework
 - Be assigned at least one week prior to the due date
 - Be graded according to a rubric communicated and discussed with the students in advance
2. Special projects will require additional time for grading/assessing by the teacher

