

Waltrip High School  
Instructor: Amir Saada  
amir.saada@houstonisd.org

**Course Syllabus**  
**U.S. Government: Democracy in Action**  
**Economics: Free Enterprise**

**Flexibility will be key this year. Please be patient as we are all trying something new!**

**GRADING STRUCTURE:**

- Test/Performance Assessment = 35%
- Class Work = 30%
- Quizzes = 20%
- Homework = 15%

**GRADING SCALE:**

90%-100% = A (Excellent)

80%-89% = B (Good, Above Average)

75%-79% = C (Satisfactory, Average)

70%-74% = D (Passing, Below Average)

Below 70% = F (Unsatisfactory, Failing)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

**GOVERNMENT:** In United States Government, the focus is on the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. This course is the culmination of the civic and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus of the course is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems. Students identify the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and examine the strategic importance of places to the United States. Students analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a constitutional republic, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Students examine the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States.

**ECONOMICS:** Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits is the culmination of the economic content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. The focus is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services (the problem of scarcity) in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price. Students will investigate the concepts of specialization and international trade, economic growth, key economic measurements, and monetary and fiscal policy. Students will study the roles of the Federal Reserve System and other financial institutions, government, and businesses in a free enterprise system. Types of business ownership and market structures are discussed. The course also incorporates instruction in personal financial literacy. Students apply critical-thinking skills using economic concepts to evaluate the costs and benefits of economic issues.

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## Course Access

The entire course will be offered through the HISD learning platform the H.U.B. This is a free web-based program that is available on the computer. Every single assignment and material required for the class will be available on this platform. Additionally, all due dates for assignments will be posted there. As a result, students are responsible for keeping up with all of their upcoming due dates and assignments. Students will access the synchronous component of their course in Microsoft TEAMS. All submissions unless otherwise stated will be made on the H.U.B. There is no excuse for a student failing to submit an assignment by the assigned deadline.

## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT PLAN

### VIRTUAL NORMS:

1. Students are expected to have mics muted and start on the DO NOW immediately once they sign in to the TEAMS lesson.
2. Students are expected to keep their mics muted while the teacher is lecturing. We will use many break-out rooms for group discussions in which all students will be encouraged to participate and speak.
3. Students are encouraged to have their cameras on and if you are uncomfortable with your setting at home, you are encouraged to use the virtual background to block out your surroundings.

### Classroom Expectations/Policies

- Students must focus on their LEARNING and not just their letter grade.
- Complete assignments in a timely manner, respect the due date.
- Absent students must collect and make up their own work
- The class should always be left in a better condition than it was arrived upon (if we get there)

### How to begin class

- Upon entry, begin review of previous day's work
- Have materials ready to begin class

**Contacting Mr. Saada:** [amir.saada@houstonisd.org](mailto:amir.saada@houstonisd.org)

Office Hours: Monday: 3:25pm to 4:10pm

Tuesday to Friday: 1:50 pm to 2:35pm

Email is the best way to get a hold of me as responses will be prompt

*Student Name (print)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Name (print)* \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_