**US Government and Politics**

**Fall 2024**



**Course Goals**

100% of seniors will earn the Government credit needed for graduation

100% of seniors will meet or exceed their BOS Goals

**Introduction to the Course**

 US Government and Politics is a one semester course which explores the political theory and everyday practice that directs the daily operation of our government and shapes our public policies. This class will require a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every session. We will dive into understanding the U.S. governmental system through examining historical documents and current events. The plan is to develop knowledge of concepts and connections to analyze American politics and take part in American civics. We will discuss the institutions, beliefs, and groups that constitute the vast subject of U.S. Government including but not limited to, elections, legislation, ideologies, and the criminal justice system.

**Units of Study**

1. Foundations of American Democracy
2. Interactions Among the Branches of Government
3. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
4. American Political Ideologies and Beliefs
5. Political Participation

**Supplies/Materials**

Please be prepared with the following materials by Monday, August 26th.

* School issued Laptops and Charger
* #2 pencils
* Blue/black pen
* At least 8 tabs/dividers
* Loose-leaf paper or a spiral-bound notebook
* 1inch 3 Ring Binder sections:
	+ **Course Documents** (documents such as this syllabus will go here)
	+ **Unit 1** (daily notes, handouts, reading notes, and quizzes will go here, in chronological order)
	+ **Unit 2** (daily notes, handouts, reading notes, and quizzes will go here, in chronological order)
	+ **Unit 3** (daily notes, handouts, reading notes, and quizzes will go here, in chronological order)
	+ **Unit 4** (daily notes, handouts, reading notes, and quizzes will go here, in chronological order)
	+ **Unit 5** (daily notes, handouts, reading notes, and quizzes will go here, in chronological order)
	+ **Projects** (daily notes and handouts for research project lessons will go here, in chronological order)

**Textbook**

Krutz, Glen and Waskiewicz, Sylvie, "American Government, 3rd Edition" (2021). eTextbooks for Students. 397.https://openstax.org/books/american-government-3e/

**Student Rules and Expectations**

Students should be familiar with JY’s Student Handbook and the HISD Student Code of Conduct.

During our short time together, work toward being the best version of yourself!

* Be in class, on time and prepared
* Get appropriate tardy and class passes as necessary
* Approach the instructor when class material is unclear, you are missing an assignment, are absent
* Attend tutorials or schedule a meeting for additional assistance
* Collaborate and work appropriately with team members
* Be Respectful – of Opinions, People, Time, Things, and Yourself
* Refrain from bullying and any derogatory comments (physical, written, verbal, or digital)
* Inform the teachers of upcoming scheduled absences
* Frequently check Canvas and PowerSchool for student grades to ensure you maintain above a 75 or above

Consequences included, but not limited to

* Verbal / Non-Verbal Warning
* Parent Communication
* AP Referral
* Failing Grade (Cheating)

**Academic dishonesty includes cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination, and deliberately acquiring an unfair advantage on . In accordance with the HISD policy, "A student found cheating on any assignment or test will be given a zero. "The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and other supervising professional employee, taking into consideration written materials, observation, or information from students.” Cheating helps no one.**

**Attendance Policy**

HISD requires students to be present for 90% of class time in order to receive credit. Each class’s attendance is independent of any other class.

If you are absent, check Canvas and contact the teacher for missed work. You can also contact classmates especially pertaining to group work.

Students have three calendar days (\*Saturday/Sunday count as one day) to reconcile missing work resulting from an

absence. It is **the responsibility of the student** to contact the teacher to acquire missing assignments. Missing assignments due to absence result in a 0, until reconciled. Missing and Late assignments result in a 0 after three calendar days\*. l

**Grading**

Student grades are calculated based on a total points grading system where each assignment has an assigned point value.

Students can accurately determine their grade by dividing the total points earned across all assignments by the total points

possible.

Each six-week grading cycle will have total points earned throughout the demonstration of knowledge and skills on the following assignments types:

| 5-10 Points | Do Nows, CFUs, Notestaking, and In-Class Engagement |
| --- | --- |
| 15-30 Points | Graded Assignments and Quizzes |
| 30-50 Points | Tests, Essays, Project Deliverables |
| 50-100 Points | Exams, Research Papers, and Projects |

- Minimum 400 Points per cycle

**Retakes and Late Work Policy**

Only the three highest weighted assignments are eligible for retakes.Of these three assignments, students are allowed two

retakes per grading cycle. Students are eligible to retake assignments if they submitted the original assignment on time AND scored below 70%.

While this course may use multiple online platforms, **PowerSchool is the official gradebook.**

Parents, guardians, and students should refer to PowerSchool to view a student's grade for this course and **refer to Canvas for any assignments.**

**Any assignment assigned before, but due on the day you were absent must be turned in when you return.**

Students who turn in late work within three days of the due date will receive credit with penalty. The grade penalty is 10 percent per calendar day. (\*Saturday/Sunday is counted as one day) Students' work will not be accepted after three days of the due date.

**Extra Help:**

If at any time you feel that you need extra help, please come speak to me. Be proactive! This will be good practice for life when the burden of getting help is entirely yours.

**I agree to abide by all of the expectations laid out in the course syllabus. I understand and agree with the grading policy. I also understand that the course is at the discretion of the instructor and the syllabus is subject to change.**

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