**Mr. Matthew Fortson**

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**School Phone: 678-383-7430**

**Veterans High School**

**2025-2026**

American Government/Civics

## **Course Description**

The government course provides students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government. Students examine the philosophical foundations of the United States government and how that philosophy developed. Students also examine the structure and function of the United States government and its relationship to states and citizens.

Individual standards for the course are available upon request.

## **Text**

As a student of this course, you will be required to complete assigned reading and tasks from the text Magruder’s *American Government*. These are available in class as a class set. Students should not take these home without authorization.

## **School Supplies for Social Studies**

Note: All of these are for personal use. Some things are only required on a student to student basis.

**Students will need the following supplies for class:**

*-Single 1 inch binder*

*-Pencils/Black and Red Pens*

-Colored Pencils

-Erasers

-Highlighters

-Reinforcements for papers

*-Notebook Paper*

-Tape (Scotch, Invisible, Transparent, etc.)

-Personal Pencil Sharpener

Items in italics are required items that each student will need at minimum.

## **Grades**

Grade weights are listed in the chart below. Assignments will vary in point value depending on the length, breadth, and depth of the topic at hand. Periodic progress reports will be issued, but students are responsible for keeping up with their grades and can track them via ***Infinite Campus***. Assignments will be returned to students after grading is completed.

-Major Assignments (Tests, Projects, Essays) 45%

-Minor Assignments (Quizzes, DBQs,Notebook Checks) 20%

-Daily Assignments (Classwork, Warmups, Homework) 15%

-Final Exam 20%

**Note: This course includes a cumulative exam at the end of the semester.**

## **Technology**

**All students are issued a district-provided chrome book for instructional purposes, student engagement, and student learning.** Chromebook use is at the direction and discretion of the classroom teacher. Also, it is expected that students will bring the Chromebook to class everyday. Students will not be allowed to use class chargers.

We will be using Canvas Learning Management System and it will serve as an out of class tool that will allow the students to remain in contact with the class and necessary material.Canvas will also serve as the repository for notes, handouts, study guides, and other materials that are a part of the course. Canvas can be accessed through the student chromebook.

Cell phones are strictly forbidden. If you have one out, even to check the time, I will confiscate it. Failure to give up a cell phone when directed will result in an office referral.

## **Make-Up Work, Remediation, and Extra Help (Tutoring)**

Students are responsible for all work, notes, handouts, etc when they are absent from class. Assignments that are turned in by the class when a student is absent are due the day the student returns. If you need an additional copy of something, check the ‘stacks’.

NIs and Instructional absences do **NOT** negate student responsibility. You must makeup missing assignments/quizzes/tests/etc.

ISS work must be completed and turned in to the ISS teacher correctly and responsibly.

Tutoring will take place on Tuesdays and Thursday from 3:00 to 3:30 PM. I’m available other times, but you have to let me know ahead of time.

## **My Expectations**

1. Have Respect
   1. For each other, school property, classroom rules, etc.
2. Do Your Job
   1. This is your job. You get paid in grades.
3. Show Up Prepared
   1. Have your notebook, pencils/pens, charged chromebook
4. Be Attentive
   1. Dial in. Try to keep from being off task and daydreaming.
5. Use Tech Appropriately
   1. Don’t abuse the tech you have access to. Use it for school related things, not for Youtube!

## **Expectations and Class Procedures**

For a full explanation, see document ‘Expectations and Procedures Overview’ on Canvas.

## **Discipline Procedures**

*If any of the classroom rules are broken or if the student engages in any other behavior that is deemed inappropriate, the student will be given:*

1. Redirect
2. Redirect
3. Parent Contact
4. Office Referral

**Parent Syllabus Page – Please detach and turn in ASAP . This is your very first grade!**

I have read this syllabus and understand the standards, requirements, and expectations for Mr. Fortson’s class.

Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

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Best Phone number to contact\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Notes for Mr. Fortson about your student:

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