

## US Government Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Derek Harvey

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### Materials needed for class

textbook (physical or online version)

Computer or Chromebook

Paper

Pencil or pen

### Google Classroom

We will also be using Google Classroom this year for assignments and other activities. You must use your school email addresses to access this program. I have provide links to Google Classroom on my teacher website at

<https://bchs.bledsoecountyschools.org/derek-harvey>

We will talk more about Google Classroom in class.

### Class Expectations (Non negotiable)

All expectations and procedures outlined in the [BCHS Student Handbook](#) apply to this class

- **Respect**  
Show respect for ourselves, others and our classroom
- **Curiosity**  
Be curious about the world around us and ask questions
- **Collaboration**  
Work with others to develop our knowledge and understand the roles within a group
- **Communication**  
Speak to others respectfully and communicate learning and needs
- **Open-Mindedness**  
Be open-minded to other people's ideas and perspectives, cultures and beliefs. You don't have to agree, just be respectful of others' opinions.

### Class Procedures

1. **Be in class, in your assigned seat, and ready to begin Bell Work before the tardy bell rings.**
2. **Bring all materials needed for class everyday including your school issued device.**
3. **Cell phones are not allowed out during class time and should be powered off and placed in your assigned holder in the front of the room or in your backpack.**
4. **Respect others. Bullying and inappropriate language are not allowed.**
5. **Throw away any garbage into a trash can before leaving the classroom.**
6. **Wait until the teacher dismisses you before leaving class.**
7. **Cheating on any test, quiz, or assignment will result in an automatic zero on that assignment.**
8. **Follow all school rules.**
9. **Follow the Golden Rule- do unto others (including the teacher) as you would have them do unto you.**
10. **Violation of any policies or procedures will result in the following disciplinary action.**
  - Step 1: Warning**
  - Step 2: One day of lunch detention**  
call parent informing their child is on step 2 for their class
  - Step 3: Two days of lunch detention**  
call parent informing their child is on step 3 for their class
  - Step 4: Office referral through skyward**

### **Course overview**

Students will study the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution. Students will learn the structure and processes of the government of the state of Tennessee and local governments. Students will recognize their rights and responsibilities as citizens as well as how to exercise these rights and responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels.

### **School Devices**

You will need your **school provided Chromebook** each day. Please bring these everyday as we will be doing much of our work electronically. Your participation grade will be based on bringing your device to class everyday charged and ready to use. Devices must be used according to the guidelines of the school's Acceptable Use Policy and all devices provided by the school must be returned at the end of the year and students could be responsible if the devices are damaged.

### **Textbook**

Your textbook will be online (link in Google Classroom) but I have a limited number of hard copies available

### **Attendance**

**!!!!You can only miss 5 unexcused days and still receive credit for the class!!!!** Anyone who arrives to class 10 minutes late or leaves before 10 minutes remaining in class will be counted absent for that class period.

### **Latework/Makeup Work**

Late work will only be accepted at the discretion of the teacher. You have five days from the day you return to school to make up work if you are absent. You can only make a maximum of a 70 on any work turned in after the five days.

### **Daily Reading Assignments**

You will be given a daily reading assignment along with key terms you need to know for that day in class.

### **Citizenship Tests**

Per TN state law (T.C.A. § 49-6-408), students must take and pass (70 percent or higher) the United States citizenship and immigration test during the student's high school career. Schools in which all seniors earning a regular diploma score 85 percent or higher on the U.S. civics test will be recognized by the department as a U.S. Civics All-Star School. We will take this test once a month until everyone in the class reaches a grade of 85.

### **Major Tests**

There will be six major tests during the semester. Tests will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. I will prepare study guides for the class before most tests.

#### **Major Test 1:**

(Foundations of American Government)

#### **Major Test 2:**

(Legislative Branch)

#### **(Major Test 3:**

(Executive Branch)

#### **Major Test 4:**

(Judicial Branch, Responsibility of Citizens, Civil Rights, Freedoms, and Liberties )

### **Notebooks:**

You are required to keep a notebook for this class. The notebook should include all, bellwork, notes, and assignments for the class. I will take up notebooks the day of each major test for a grade.

### **Daily Handouts:**

Each day a handout will be posted to Google classroom. The Handout will include the topic/objectives of the day, a breakdown of the class activities of that day, the classwork for that day, the key terms for the day and the next day, and a reading schedule for the upcoming week and key dates to keep in mind for projects and tests.

**Role Play/Discussions**

We will have discussions or role play exercises over many topics we cover in class. You will be graded on this discussion by your participation in the discussion. This will count as part of your participation grade.

**Exit Tickets:**

Each day you will have an exit ticket covering that day's class. This will be posted to Google Classroom and will be due at the end of each class period.

**Projects:**

You will have several projects during the class .

1. **Letter to Representative**
2. **Mock Congress**
3. **Cabinet Department Google Slide Presentations**
4. **Supreme Court Case Study Presentations**

**Grading Categories**

Classwork/Quizzes/Homework 30%                      Tests 30%

Class Projects 15%    Participation 10%

Midterm/Final\* 15%

\* To be exempt from the final exam a student must have an average in the class of 90% or higher with no more than 5 excused or unexcused absences.

A=100-90

B= 89-80

C= 79-70

D= 69-60

F= 59 and bellow

**Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)**

**Week One: Class Introduction and Foundations of Government**

**Week Two: The Beginnings of American Government**

**Week Three: The Constitution , Letter to Representative**

**Week Four: Major Test #1, Beginning Legislative Branch**

**Week Five: Continue the Legislative Branch**

**Week Six: Mock Congress Project**

**Week Seven: Major Test #2, Begin the Executive Branch**

**Week Eight: Continue the Executive Branch**

**Week Nine: Midterm and Citizenship Test**

**Week Ten: The Bureaucracy, Cabinet Department Google Slide Presentations**

**Week Eleven: Elections, Voting, and Citizenship**

**Week Twelve: Major Test #3, Begin the Judicial Branch**

**Week Thirteen: Continue the Judicial Branch**

**Week Fourteen: Responsibility of Citizens, Civil Rights, Freedoms, and Liberties**

**Week Fifteen: Supreme Court Case Study Presentations**

**Week Sixteen: Major Test #4, Being State and Local Government**

**Week Seventeen: Continue State and Local Government**

**Week Eighteen: Final Exam**

**This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or as a result of changes to school or system policies**

