

**Atkinson County High School**  
**American Government Course Syllabus**

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**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.

**Georgia Standards of Excellence**

- **SSCG1** Compare and contrast various systems of government.
- **SSCG2** Demonstrate knowledge of the political philosophies that shaped the development of United States constitutional government.
- **SSCG3** Demonstrate knowledge of the framing and structure of the United States Constitution.
- **SSCG4** Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of the national government.
- **SSCG5** Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system of government described in the United States Constitution.
- **SSCG6** Analyze the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and how each is secured.
- **SSCG7** Demonstrate knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights.
- **SSCG8** Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative branch of government.
- **SSCG9** Explain the impeachment and removal process and its use for federal officials as defined in the U.S. Constitution.
- **SSCG10** Demonstrate knowledge of the executive branch of government.
- **SSCG11** Explain the functions of the departments and agencies of the federal bureaucracy.
- **SSCG12** Describe the tools used to carry out United States foreign policy, including diplomacy and treaties; economic, military, and humanitarian aid; and sanctions and military intervention.
- **SSCG13** Demonstrate knowledge of the operation of the judicial branch of government.
- **SSCG14** Demonstrate knowledge of the criminal justice process.
- **SSCG15** Demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.
- **SSCG16** Analyze the difference between involuntary and voluntary participation in civic life.
- **SSCG17** Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of state and local government described in the Georgia Constitution.

**Required Materials:** Unless you are told otherwise, bring **ALL** required materials to class every day.

- something to write with
- 3- ring binder
- headphones (I have these in class if you do not have your own pair)

**Availability for Extra Help:** I will be available before or after school *by appointment*, depending on the schedule for the week. Extra help is encouraged and will be available if needed.

**Grading Policy:**

Your overall grade is determined by a semester average and a final exam.

- The semester average is rolling, continuing throughout the duration of the semester, comprising 80% of your final grade.
- The Final Exam makes up 20% of your grade.
- Your semester average is calculated in the following categories:
  - 50% Tests/ Major Projects/Current Events (Midterm/Final counts as two test grades)
  - 30% Projects/Quizzes
  - 20% Daily Work/ Homework

I **do not drop** grades, nor do I assign **individual** extra credit assignments. However, there will be numerous extra credit opportunities for all members of the class throughout the semester.

**Late Work Policy:** Certain projects and homework assignments may be turned in one day late, but 20 points will be automatically deducted from the grade. For an assignment that is submitted two days late, an additional 10 points will be deducted. On the third day, an additional 10 points will be taken from the assignment grade. Any assignment submitted after three days will receive a grade of 0. Any work that is graded during class and handed back to students **cannot** be turned in late!!

**Make-Up Work:** After an absence it is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher to find out the assignments missed. Failure to ask for missed work does not excuse the student from the assignment. Work missed due to an excused absence must be made up within three days. This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance. Failure to make arrangements within the allotted time will result in a zero for all work missed. Work missed during an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic zero (0)! If you miss the day of a test, be prepared to take a make-up test the day you return to school, after school not during school hours. Missed projects must be made up at the teacher's convenience.

**Required Assignments:** Throughout the semester we will look at a variety of assessments to adequately gauge the mastery of the American Government Standards. We will also have 1 summative test per unit, along with a weekly quiz (or more). The quizzes are designed to encourage retention of material and also to be used as a study tool for tests.

### **CHEATING POLICY:**

Copying someone else's work, making a cheat sheet for a test, plagiarizing and/or sharing answers with someone else are all considered to be examples of cheating. **If you are caught violating my rules on cheating, all parties involved will receive an automatic zero (0) on the assignment and your parents will be contacted.** Make sure your work is your own!

### **Classroom Rules:**

1. Be on time
2. Be prepared
3. Absolutely no cell phone and/or smart watch use in class unless instructed by the teacher. Students will place their phones in the cell phone basket immediately upon entering the classroom.
4. Respect others, their feelings and property at all times. Disrespect in any form, whether it is toward myself or another student, will not be tolerated.
5. Class disruptions will not be tolerated!

Please sign and return this page.

I have read and understand the contents of this American Government syllabus, and am fully aware of the grading policy, late work policy, grade distribution, semester project, class rules, and cheating policy stated within.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the contents of this American Government syllabus, and am fully aware of the grading policy, late work policy, grade distribution, semester project, class rules, and cheating policy stated within. I have also discussed this syllabus with my child. I am aware that this class will require my child to use the Internet and other technology and I grant my child permission to use such technology as needed according to the ACHS school handbook to complete such assignments.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Contact Information (To be completed by the parent/guardian)  
(Please Print.)**

Parent name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Method of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_