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| **Instructor**  Brett Spires  BSE Social Science  The University of Alabama  MED Social Science  The University of West Alabma |  | **Class Meetings**  M-F  Classroom E117 |
| **Office** | **Email**  Classroom E117  brett.spires@acboe.net |  | **Office Hours**  1:26-2:51. Communication with parents will be conducted during this time as needed. |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Course Description** | American Government is a 9 weeks course designed for high school upperclassmen. This course builds upon the foundation established through American History courses and focuses on the origins, structure, and functions of government across all levels in the United States. Students of this course will engage in the analysis of primary source documents, speeches, court cases, and relevant political commentaries in conjunction to the Alabama Course of Study (American Government). | | | **Course Resources** | **Materials** | **ALL** Students must bring these items to class **Every Day**:   1. Textbook pen or pencil (preferably a blue or black pen) 2. 3-Ring Binder with paper and dividers 3. Spiral notebook or composition notebook (this especially will be used daily!)   ­­­­ | | **Classroom Expectations** | **Policy** | Students will be expected to abide by the Autauga County and MHS Student Code of Conduct at all times. ***Common Sense*** and ***Respect for Everyone*** should be the prevailing attitudes demonstrated by students as well as the teacher to ensure a successful semester. Students are expected to demonstrate developmental and emotional maturity sufficient to discuss and debate societal and governmental issues, problems, and possible solutions. Distractions, disruptions, or lack of effort will not be tolerated. | | **Rules and Discipline** | Students are expected to:   1. Be in their seats ready to work when the tardy bell rings. 2. Follow directions when given… the first time. 3. Be prepared and organized. 4. Participate in classroom discussions. 5. No eating, drinking (water is allowed), or chewing gum.   **Discipline Tier Steps**   * 1st Offense: Warning plus teacher & student conference * 2nd Offense: Parent Contact * 3rd Offense: Parent, student, teacher, and admin conf. * 4th Offense: Office Refferal | | | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Vision, Mission, and Beliefs**  **Vision**  “Learning Today…Leading Tomorrow”  **Mission**  Our mission is to create an environment conducive to facilitating optimal learning for all students enabling them to reach their full potential as productive members in society.  **Beliefs**  Educational opportunities must be provided for all the children of all the people. Educational offerings must be provided for the varying abilities and needs of the students. Education must be concerned with the life needs of the students. It contributes to their all-around growth which includes the physical, mental, social, vocational, and spiritual development. Public education is obligated to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of all the finer and more wholesome facets of American life. The main objective is to provide all students the best educational opportunities within available resources.  **Assignments – Grade Percentages**  Minor assignments – 35%  Major assignments – 65%  Each 9 weeks, students will receive the following grades:  Minor assignments – 10 – 15  Major assignments – 3-4  Major projects – At minimum 1 per semester  **Late Work**  All assignments are to be turned in on time. For assignments turned in late, 10% will be deducted per late day or any fraction thereof. After the due date for each assignment, students will have up to three days **MAXIMUM** to turn in late assignments. After three days, I will then lock the assignment in the gradebook and I will not accept any work submitted after this time. Incomplete assignments revert to “0 points earned.” Other brief special assignments may be assigned as are appropriate for instruction.  **Attendance Policies**  Students are expected to attend all classes, be on-time for the entire scheduled meeting time, AND to have assignments prepared on time. A written note from the parent/guardian will excuse absences for up to but not exceeding (7) absences for any full credit course per term.  **Make-Up Work**  Students will have three days to turn in an excuse. Excused absences will receive FIVE days to complete make up work. Students with UNEXCUSED absences may not be permitted to receive credit for their missed work. Students are and will be responsible for getting their makeup work upon their return.  **Statement on Academic Misconduct**  *Cheating*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids or computer-related information.  *Plagiarism*: Representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own.  *Fabrication*: Presenting as genuine, any invented or falsified citation or material.  *Misrepresentation*: Falsifying, altering or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites and transcripts.”  Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of “0” and may not have the opportunity to retake or redo the assignment. This includes but is not limited to using artificial intelligence websites such as Chat GPT. | | **Plagiarism**  Plagiarism is the act of representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer program or output, or anything not generated by the student as his or her own. Plagiarism may be inadvertent or purposeful; however, plagiarism is not a question of intent. All suspected incidences of plagiarism must be reported by the course instructor to the administration. | | | |
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