**Instructor Contact Information**

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Students and parents: If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above information at any time. If I am unavailable, I will respond as soon as possible.

**Textbook:** Magruder’s American Government (2013) *isbn: 978-0-13-324082-5*

**Course Description:** The AP course in US Government and Politics will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US Government and Politics course must follow, students should become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. Certain topics are usually covered in all college courses. The following is a discussion of these topics and some questions that should be explored in the course.

**Course Objectives:** The objectives of this course are specifically aimed at teaching students the Course Abilities outlined from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist social studies handbook.

1. Utilize the principles and methodologies of cooperative learning (benefiting from others’ experiences).
2. Equip students with a Christian approach toward social issues.
3. Develop critical and creative thinking skills (research, analysis, evaluation, correlation).
4. Develop effective communication skills (speaking, writing, listening, debating, using technology, etc.).
5. Be able to apply social studies knowledge and skills.
6. Read, research, analyze, write, and present using primary, secondary, and technological sources.
7. Identify key concepts and themes.
8. Be able to conduct historical inquiry and analysis to develop an understanding of government.
9. Be able to utilize various literacy skills for interpreting historical data.
10. Be able to appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a diverse society.
11. Be able to assess and integrate political concepts into practical application**s.**

Additionally, there are Advanced Placement objectives for this course.

1. Describe and compare important facts, concepts and theories pertaining to US government and politics
2. Explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
3. Interpret basic data relevant to US government and politics
4. Critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately and develop their connections across the curriculum

**Teacher’s Beliefs:**

* God loves you as you are, not as you should be.
* Everyone’s thoughts and opinions are valuable.
* I will expect your best and will give you mine.
* It is not important how smart you are, but how you are smart.

**Grading Scale:** Grades are based on the following percentages:

Journals/Class Participation- 15%

Projects/Tests/FRQs – 45% 93-100 = A

HW/Notes – 20% 90-92 = A-

Quizzes – 20% 87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

* 1. = B-
  2. = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

* 1. = D+
  2. = D
  3. = D-

0-59 = F

dfsfsf

**Homework:** From time to time there will be assignments/projects. Projects will come with rubrics which you can use to guide your work. Additionally, your daily homework will usually consist of reading your textbook and taking notes, filling out context maps and worksheets.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given periodically over sections in chapters from the textbook or over notes from lecture or over components of a map. Assigned reading will be given frequently as this is an Advanced Placement course that requires additional learning outside the classroom.

**Tests/FRQs**

**Projects** Tests will be given after the end of a chapter or unit. Reviews will be given to you within at least 3 days before the test.

Projects will be given out on a few occasions. Rubrics and instructions will be given out to help guide you.

Free Response Questions (FRQs) are a huge portion of the AP exam. Thus, developing solid writing will be an integral part of the course. FRQs will be given from time to time to assess the student's ability to identify, describe and explain political and government concepts.

If you are absent for a test/quiz but are in class the day before the test, it is expected that you make up the test on the day of your return. If you are absent the day before the test and the day of the test, you will have three days to take the test after your return to school. If the test is not made up in that time period, you will receive a zero for the test.

**Late Work:** It is important to me that you do your work well and turn it in on time. It shows responsibility and a good work ethic. No late work is accepted unless accompanied by official documentation of an excused absence and/or by making prior arrangements with the teacher. If you have an excused absence, you must see the teacher for make-up work on the day of your return or it will be considered late work. It is your responsibility for finding out work that was missed while you were absent.

**Journals:** Journals will be provided to students at the beginning of the semester. They should never leave the classroom. Journals will be the norm for how class will be started everyday. Students should be ready to copy down the journal number and question for points. If you are absent for a journal, it is your responsibility to make them up.

**Participation/**

**Discipline Policy:** The classroom rules are simple; respect the teacher, respect the classroom and respect others.

Respect includes such things as being quiet while others are talking and during class activities, not throwing things in class, and remaining seated during lectures. Students who do not follow classroom rules will be disciplined according to LSA policy and can see a loss of points in their participation grade.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty will result in an F for that assignment. Any talking during a quiz or test until every student is finished will be interpreted as academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes copying, faxing, emailing, messaging or in any way duplicating assignments that are turned in wholly or in part, as original work. It also includes exchanging assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes, or taking credit for group work when you have not contributed to an equal or appropriate share toward the final result.

Plagiarism will also be regarded as academic dishonesty. If you do not give proper credit, it is plagiarism. If you use three or more words of someone else’s work without proper citation, it is plagiarism. You will receive a zero for the assignment if you are caught plagiarizing. Academy honesty and personal integrity is a must in this classroom.

**Food & Drink:** Water is the only drink allowed at your desk. No food may be eaten in class without

teacher permission.

**Attendance:** Regular and engaged attendance is essential. You are responsible for all material

presented in class, including announcements on course procedures. Be in your seat and ready to learn when the bell rings. You will be allocated three “gifts” to go out of the classroom to use the restroom or step outside. Any time you are tardy per quarter, you will also lose one of these gifts. If you do not use any of these “gifts”, those “gifts” will turn into 2 points extra credit under your test grade.

**Extra Help:** If you ever have any questions or need extra help, PLEASE contact me. I am happy to help you, but you need to let me know you need help. The best time to get help is to come to my classroom right after school, but you can also e-mail me or get in contact with me in another format.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**AP Unit**

**Constitutional Underpinnings of the US Constitution (5%-15%) I**

Principles of Government [CH. 1]

Origins of American Government [CH. 2]

The Constitution [CH.3]

Federalism [CH. 4]

**Political Beliefs and Behaviors (10% - 20%) II**

Voters and Voter Behavior [CH. 6]

The Electoral Process [CH. 7]

Mass Media and Public Opinion [CH. 8]

**Political Parties, Interests Groups, and Mass Media (10%-20%) III**

Political Parties [CH. 5]

Interest Groups [CH. 9]

**Institutions of National Government: The Congress (35%-45%) IV**

Congress [CH. 10]

Powers of Congress [CH. 11]

Congress in Action [CH. 12]

**Institutions of National Government: The Presidency (35%-45%) IV**

The Presidency [CH. 13]

The Presidency in Action [CH. 14]

**Institutions of National Government: The Bureaucracy (35%-45%) IV**

Government at Work: The Bureaucracy [CH. 15]

**Institutions of National Government: The Federal Courts(35%-45%) IV**

The Federal Court System [CH. 18]

**Public Policy (5% - 15%) V**

Financing Government [CH. 16]

Foreign Policy and National Defense [CH. 17]

**Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (5% - 15%) VI**

Civil Liberties: First Amendment Freedoms [CH. 19]

Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights [CH. 20]

Civil Liberties: Equal Justice Under Law [CH. 21]

**AP EXAM (MAY 10, 2018)**

***Information in this syllabus is subject to change at the teacher’s discretion***