

US GOVERNMENT AND CIVICS SYLLABUS 2016 - 2017

COURSE INFORMATION:

William N. Brock M 207
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Guidance Department of HHS 756-2370

HOURS:

7am – 3:30pm on M, W, R
School Hours: 7:45am – 2:45pm
or Available by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will study the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the Constitution. Students are expected to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government. Students will learn the structure and processes of the government of the state of Tennessee and various local governments. The reading of primary source documents is a key feature of United States Government and Civics standards.

GRADING POLICY:

- ~ Projects = 30%
- ~ Classwork/Homework = 20%
- ~ Quizzes = 20%
- ~ Tests = 30%
- ***SCALE:** 100 – 93 = A; 92 – 85 = B; 84 – 75 = C; 74 – 70 = D; and below 70 = F
- *This is in accordance with the guidelines set out in the HHS Student Handbook.

- All grades are posted online through PowerSchool. Parents and students are encouraged to login as often as I update grades on a daily basis.

SUPPLIES:

- *MaGruders: American Government* textbook – **BRING EVERYDAY**
- One 1 ½" - three-ring binder with notebook paper (any color binder, **ORGANIZED**)
- Divider tabs for: (1) Syllabus, (2) Notes and Worksheets, (3) Reading Summaries (4) Project information
- 1 Packet of Notebook Paper for notes (non-colored)
- Pencil or Pen (Blue or Black only)
- Highlighters

ASSIGNMENTS:

- A variety of assignments of notes, daily activities, and group projects will be used during the course. It is my expectation that all assignments are to be turned in on time. All assignments turned in on time will be graded fairly.
- **No assignments will be taken late after 3 days, unless you have and excused absence.**
- **You have one day to complete for each day you were absent.**

Check the webpage to see Weekly Reading Assignments and other assignments for the week. <http://brockgovernment.weebly.com>

CURRENT EVENT SUMMARIES REQUIRED:

- On a weekly basis, I will post extra reading assignments on the class webpage that will be discussed in class and
- a one (1) page typed summary is to be written on your own and to be turned in. **CURRENT EVENT REPORTS ARE DUE ON WEDNESDAY!**
- See an example on my website for how you should write your summary.

ABSENCES & SCHEDULED ABSENCES:

- *It is the responsibility of the student to request work missed when absent.* Make-up assignments can be at the front table and the online LESSON PLANS web page will have assignments attached.
- If you are scheduled for an excused absence ahead of time, it is your responsibility to see the teacher at least one week before departure to obtain your assignments. Due to the absence the student may be assigned different, however comparable assignments than classmates.

THIS WORK WILL BE DUE ON THE DAY YOU RETURN, OR BEFORE YOU LEAVE. I WILL NOT TAKE LATE ASSIGNMENTS. NO EXCUSES.

ADVICE: It is better to do it in advance!

ABSENCE ON TEST DAY:

- All tests are scheduled and will be notified one week in advance. *If you are absent on test day you have one week to make-up the test. If you do not make it up, it will result in a grade of zero (0 - F).* This test may be made up of essay questions on material covered in class. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SCHEDULE A MAKE-UP TEST WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. MAKE-UP TESTS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN IN THE MORNING FROM 7:00-7:45am**

*CLASS EXPECTATIONS:

- Respect the Teacher, your fellow classmates, and yourself!
- Be here! Be on time! Be prepared to begin class immediately. (No return trips to locker for forgotten supplies; this includes assignments due that day!)
- Respect school property and classroom materials.
- Remain in your seat (keeping your hands, feet, and objects to yourself) and stay on the assigned task.
- No food, drinks, music, cell phones, or any other electronic device.
- Ask for help! I am always here before school and after school.

*Note: These expectations are in addition to the rules set forth in the HHS Student Handbook found online.

Negative Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student-Teacher Conference
3. Written Warning (to be kept on file)
4. Phone call/emails to parent
5. Sent to Administrator

Positive Consequences

1. Verbal Praise
2. Positive phone calls/emails
3. Bonus Test Questions
4. Reduced Homework
5. Convince me to talk the "boss" into basking something.

(Severe clause: Some inappropriate behavior will result in an escalation of negative consequences)

*I strive to treat all students equally but students need to realize that some students may have a special need, which at times may appear like they are receiving preferential treatment. I am not at liberty to discuss individual students situations with other students and most importantly each student needs to be responsible for their own actions. Do not try to compare what another student does when defending your actions.

DISCIPLINE:

- Class time is very important and I will not tolerate anyone talking out of turn, distracting other students from learning, sleeping, or using my class as a study hall for another subject. I incorporate various teaching strategies that require a certain amount of flexibility in order to best teach the subject matter. Participation in class discussion and learning how to work in cooperative groups will be part of the norm for this class.
- If you are assigned ISS (for any reason) you will be responsible to complete the assignment given. This assignment will consist of outlining/copying from your textbook, as you will be missing the classroom notes.

STUDENTS, TAKE THIS HOME AND GO OVER THE INFORMATION WITH YOUR PARENTS AND THEN **SIGN THIS SHEET AND TURN IT IN BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th, TO CHECK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MY EXPECTATIONS.** THIS WILL BE RETURNED AND YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP IT IN YOUR BINDER NOTEBOOK AS A REFERENCE.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____