



**Northwest Magnet High School
American Government
Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Mr. Hunter

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Classroom: 259 (Periods 1, 4, 5, and 6) 253 (Period 3 and 9)

Plan Period: 2nd and 8th in Humanities Plan Center

Twitter: @MrHunterNW

Course Description: Welcome to American Government. This course explores the structure and dynamics of American national government, providing a broad-based introduction to the ideas and institutions that shape politics in the contemporary United States. We will focus our analysis on four major areas: the Constitution and the debates of the founding era, the institutions of modern American government, citizen participation, and public policy

Course Objectives: The primary objective is to prepare you to have life long learning skills. We focus on academic skills, writing, time management and inter-personal communication skills. Small and large group discussions are a part of classroom learning. All students are expected to participate in them. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to help each member of the class arrive at a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the forces that shape American government and politics, so that he or she may be both a more discerning student and critic of the system and a more informed and reflective participant in it. It is important not only that students keep pace with the course but also ask questions and seek additional help when needed. Mr. Hunter is willing to meet with students before or after school with requested appointments.

UNIT 1: The Founding and the Constitution

UNIT 2: The Institutions

UNIT 3: Citizen Participation

UNIT 4: Public Policy

By the end of this year, you will:

- + Demonstrate and strengthen your ability to write formal essays/research papers.
- + Compare/contrast/synthesize and analyze information.
- + Exercise critical thinking and communication skills in formal and informal discussions.

You need to have the following in class each day:

- + Blue or Black ink pens and pencils
- + Class Notebook specific for American Government
- + Student Planner and ID

Digital Access: All students will be provided with online credentials for the textbook, access to the online class notebook through Microsoft Office 365, and I will periodically Tweet out Reminders for major assignments and projects on Twitter. (@MrHunterNW)

COURSE POLICIES

Course policies are the rules and guidelines our class follows, in addition to those established by Northwest High Magnet School (All Northwest rules and expectations are enforced in Mr. Hunter's classroom). Each student is expected to know, understand, and follow these policies. If you feel class or school policies need clarification speak with Mr. Hunter directly.

ATTENDANCE: Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the bell rings. If a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is her/his responsibility to inform Mr. Hunter before the absences and arrange make-up or alternative work. A friend in class is helpful to collect materials and information if you are absent.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are a member of a community of learners. For any community to thrive, certain concepts must be embraced. In our community, I expect the following general behavior of all students.

RESPECT: All students will be respectful to themselves, their community members, and their learning environment.

READINESS: All students must attend class everyday and be ready to actively participate in daily activities.

RESPONSIBILITY: All students must accept responsibility for themselves and their actions.

As seniors beginning to think about life after high school, we have a golden rule in Mr. Hunter's classroom:

Act like an adult if you want to be treated like an adult.

- No distracting items are allowed in the classroom (i.e. Phones or other electronic devices, headphones, food, beverages (except water), hats, hoods, sunglasses, etc....)
- Appropriate language will be used in the classroom—no swearing or other offensive remarks will be allowed- **see the golden rule above**
- You are responsible for your academic progress and communication with Mr. Hunter about problems or struggles is expected from you.

CHEATING, COPYING AND PLAGIARISM:

Cheating, copying and plagiarism are serious acts of academic dishonesty that are not tolerated in any form. Students who cheat receive a zero for the assignment or exam. Students involved in copying of work receive a zero for the assignment or exam, including any student allowing the copying to take place. If students or family members have questions about this, please talk to Mr. Hunter.

DISTRICT GRADING POLICY

All coursework and assessments are judged based on the level of student learning from “below basic” to “advanced.” This course will provide multiple opportunities to achieve at the “proficient” to “advanced” levels. Students are evaluated based on a proficiency scale or project rubric:

Formative assessments will account for **35%** of the final grade; these include notebook checks, assignments, current events, and other activities.

A = 3.51 – 4.00 (Advanced)
 A- = 3.01 - 3.50
 B = 2.51 – 3.00 (Proficient)
 B- = 2.01 -2.50
 C = 1.51 – 2.00 (Basic)
 D = .76- 1.50 (Below Basic)
 F = 0.00 – .75 (Failing)

Summative assessments will account for **65%** of the final grade; these include Unit Tests, Final Exam, chapter quizzes, and the Required Semester Projects (RSP).

Missing Coursework: Work not turned in at all will be recorded in Infinite Campus (district grade book) as an M for missing which calculates to a score of zero.

Redoing/Revising Coursework: Students may be allowed redos and revisions of coursework for full credit during that unit of study based upon the teacher's professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Scores for student work after retaking, revision or redoing work will not be averaged with the first attempt at coursework or assessment, but will replace the original student score.

Late Coursework: Students are expected to complete coursework on time. Late coursework may be accepted for full credit until the end of the unit based on the teacher's professional judgment and evidence collected throughout the unit. Accepted late work will not result in a reduction, and the M (missing) will be replaced with the score earned by the student. The teacher or school may make exceptions depending up on student circumstances (such as prolonged absences due to illness)

Weighting Assignments: Teachers may assign greater weight to some assignments. For example, the final exam may impact a student's summative grade more than a unit test. Teachers will have the option use the multiplier to weight both formative and summative assessments to a maximum of 4. If a weight of 2 or more is applied to an assessment, this information will be communicated to students at the time the assessment is announced.

Students: Please read the course syllabus and share it with your parents. Please return this syllabus by Wednesday, January 18th for your first grade of the semester.

I have read the policies and expectations for American Government and understand them. If I choose not to meet these expectations, I am willing to accept the consequences.

Student Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: If you have an email address you would like the teacher to use to communicate with you about your child's progress, please include it here: _____