

U.S. Government and Civics Syllabus

Mr. Kestner

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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.*

Units of Study

- Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship
- Foundations of Government and the U.S. Constitution
- Political Behavior of Citizens
- Branches of Government
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- State and Local Government
- Citizenship Test and Project as Required by TN State Law (more info given in class)

Materials Needed – Your computer (other materials may be required as we transition back into an in-person classroom)

Course Expectations

Attendance – More information about attendance will be forthcoming in the coming days.

Preparation – As the year will be beginning online, students will be expected to attend or view recorded zoom meetings, complete all assignments by the due date, and participate in all online discussions.

Assignments - Throughout this course, you will be given assignments that require you to think critically and analyze both assorted texts and visual information. It will be necessary for you to read the corresponding textbook assignments prior to class. This will enable you to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the material. ***Sometimes topics covered in the assigned readings are not covered in depth during class. Please be aware that all topics, whether covered in class or assigned readings, may be included on unit assessments.***

Code of Conduct - Be aware of all of the policies and procedures in the University School Code of Conduct as well as the expectations in the Remote Learning Expectations Document.

Cheating and Plagiarism – Students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing material will receive a zero for the assignment and a disciplinary referral. Cheating and plagiarism can occur in numerous ways. Examples include:

- Using or paraphrasing someone else's work and ideas without giving credit. You must include the source and properly cite it. Changing a word or two is not acceptable. This applies to research projects and class assignments involving the textbook.
- Copying assignments in class, at home, or in the hallway before school starts
- Providing test information or answers

Make-Up Policy - If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain assignments. Make-up work is due based on the length of your absence. If you miss two days, you will have two days to complete and turn in the assignment.

If an assignment was due on the day you were absent, you are expected to turn it in the day you return. Should you require an extra day, the maximum you may receive is a 70%. No assignments will be accepted after the 2nd day.

Test and Quiz dates will be announced and posted on canvas. All students are expected to take assessments on the assigned date. If a student is absent on the day of the test, they are expected to contact the teacher and make arrangements to make up the test.

Grading System - Grading will be done on a total point system. The total number of points may vary depending on the complexity of the assignment. Grades will be as follows:

Daily assignments: 10 pts.

Projects (depending on complexity): 25-50 pts.

Quizzes: 50 pts.

Tests: 100 pts.

You will be able to access your grades online. Most of the time, grades will be updated weekly. Projects and other lengthy assignments will require additional time.