

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

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American Government is a required, one-term course. This course is designed to prepare students for active participation in local, state, and national civic life. Knowledge of the fundamentals and principles of the U.S. political system, in addition to the Iowa political system, prepares students for their future responsibilities as citizens. This course includes investigations of primary sources, discussions of subject area readings, audio-visual presentations, simulations, and analysis of current events.

## Classroom Rules

- Be respectful to staff and peers.
- Devices are out of your hands when you have work to complete, when there is active instruction, and when you are working in groups.
- No food is allowed, beverages must be in a sealable container.
- Please leave the room how you found it – computers, trash, etc.

## Classroom Information

- Assignments and syllabus, including standards, will be found in the OneNote.
- You are responsible for obtaining missing work when absent. Assignments are dated in OneNote so you can find what you have missed.
- Any missing papers will be in the “Missing Work” bin. This, on occasion, may not be up to date. If you cannot find something, ask.
- Any work turned in late will be subject to a penalty, this varies with the assignment.
- Late work may be modified from the original assignment, with fewer points possible
- Work is generally graded twice weekly. Grades will be available in Infinite Campus
- Required materials: Pencil or pen, notebook, folder

## OneNote Guidelines

- New assignments will be placed in the Content Library
- These may be put into any section of your OneNote
- Finished work should be placed in your “Completed Work” folder in OneNote or, if paper, turned into me.
- Work will be starred (\*) when graded.

## **Grading Scale**

A - 90-100%

B - 80-89.9%

C - 70-79.9%

D - 60-69.9%

F – 59% and below

**This course will adhere to the Iowa Core 9-12 Inquiry Standards and 9-12 Civics and Government Standards**

## **Class Content**

### Foundations of Government

- Hobbes and Locke
- Rule of Law
- Forms of Government
- Roots of American Democracy

### Origins of American Democracy

- Declaration of Independence
- American Independence
- Articles of Confederation
- The Constitutional Convention

### The Constitution

- Ratification
- Bill of Rights
- Separation of Powers
- Federalism
- Supremacy clause
- Necessary and proper clause
- Checks and Balances
- Limited Government

### The Legislative Branch

- Structure of Congress
- The House of Representatives
- The Senate
- Powers of Congress
- How a bill becomes law

### The Executive Branch

- The Presidency
- Powers of the Presidency
- The Federal Bureaucracy

### The Judicial Branch

- The Federal Court System
- The Supreme Court
- Judicial Review
- Important Court Cases

### The Living Document

- Changing the Constitution
- Amendments
- Evolution of Civil Rights

### Understanding Elections

- The Electoral College
- The Electoral Process
- Interest Groups
- Political Parties

### Foreign Policy

- The Role of the United States
- Foreign Policy Challenges

### State of Iowa

- Structure of State Government
- Issues important to Iowans
- Iowa's Role in Presidential Elections

### Citizenship

- What is your role?
- What are your responsibilities as a citizen?
- What factors influence your position on issues?