**** **American Government/Civics- 45.057**

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**Instructor:** Coach Murphy **Room #**407 **Email:** john.murphy@henry.k12.ga.us

**Resources:**

* **Textbook:** *United States Government*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. Students may check out a hardcopy and/or access the textbook online at - <https://www.hmhco.com/content/hmof/social_studies/us_government/na/gr9-12/ese_9780544916241_/#page0003/>
* **Online:**  In addition to Google Classroom, we will utilize a number of other online platforms notablyQuizziz, Quia, Illuminate, Google Docs, Google forms, Ed Puzzles and ICIVICs. All information and links will be posted through google classroom.

**Class Objective:**

American Government is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, intensive study of our nation’s system of government and how it came into being. Students begin with a study of the concepts of government, earliest philosophies of government and founding documents, before examining the structure of our government, federalism, civil rights & liberties, and civic participation. Alongside assessments, discussions, debates, and projects will be a key part of the class. We move beyond **WHO**, **WHAT**, **WHEN** and **WHERE** to answering **HOW** and **WHY**.

**Student Expectations:**

Students will work as individuals, groups, and/or pairs. Students are expected to come to class prepared each day with a charged laptop and unit materials. In addition to the 8-unit assessments and outlines there will be a variety of grade types from long-term projects and online practice assignments to participation in classroom activities, discussions, and simulations.

**Monday’s Class** – will be used to introduce and provide time for students to work on current assignments. Students who fail to submit an assignment on time or score poorly on an assignment may be eligible for replacement grades up to 80%. Monday’s class may also be used for students who need to make-up a missed test due to an authorized absence. Students using Monday’s time for replacement/make-up must ensure they make time outside of class to work on current assignments. Mondays will also provide a time for students to receive some 1-1 tutoring when needed.

This Government class is a required class for high school graduation. Moreover, it will address many questions/concerns students are beginning to encounter as they become a voter. To be successful in gaining both the high school credit and the tools needed to navigate the civic participation, students must be **present and participate from bell to bell!**

**Equipment Needed/Supplies:**

* Charged Laptop – VITALLY IMPORTANT!!
* One 3-ring binder with 10 plastic sheet protectors
* Notebook paper
* Pencil and Pen
* Highlighter

**Grading Breakdown:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessments:** * **8 Unit Summative Assessments, Quizzes, Benchmark Exams**
 | **40%**  |
| **Practice Work** * **Weekly - Daily Classroom Assignments + Activities, Ed Puzzles, Mini Projects**
 | **40%** |
| **Final Assessment** | **20%** |

**Tentative Course Outline:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit** | **Duration** | **Standards** |
| **Unit 1: Foundations of American Government**  | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG1 & SSCG2** |
| **Unit 2: The Constitution** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG3 & SSCG4** |
| **Unit 3: Federalism** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG5** |
| **Unit 4: The Legislative Branch** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG8 & SSCG9** |
| **Unit 5: The Executive Branch** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG10, SSCG11, SSCG12** |
| **Unit 6: The Judicial Branch** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG13 & SSCG14** |
| **Unit 7: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties and Due Process** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG7**  |
| **Unit 8: State and Local Government, Civic Participation** | **2 Weeks** | **SSCG15, SSCG16, SSCG17** |

**Link to standards -** <https://www.henry.k12.ga.us/cms/lib/GA01000549/Centricity/Domain/5962/American_Govt_Social_Studies_HTLS_print%20v2.pdf>

**Late Work, Make-Up and Re-Take Policy:**

* Students will take a standard aligned benchmarks and a final. The scores on these assessments may be used to replace previously failing or missing summative grades.
* If you have an excused absence for a test or scored poorly on an assignment, you can use a Monday – see (Monday’s Class in the Student Expectations section)
* Work should be submitted on time – while I may provide an extension or replacement option in certain circumstances, some assignments are time sensitive and will not be accepted late or eligible for a replacement assignment.

**\*In life you don’t get a second shot at everything, so not all grades can be made-up or replaced – focus should be to improve/complete/submit future assignments. Also, no single assignment in this class can “make or break” a grade – your final grade will reflect your general performance in the course.**

**Tutoring Times:**

* Monday’s class (see student expectations)
* Before or after-school by appointment.

**Classroom Behavior - Including cellphones, attendance, cheating, etc**

\*We will follow all OHS and Henry County School Wide Policies, Procedures and Repercussions – see student handbook for details\*

**My Goal:**

I look forward to this year and believe the topics covered in this course are essential and practical for young adults. If you have any problems or concerns this semester, please, please, come and talk to me ASAP - do not wait until the last minute to seek help as it may be too late for me to help you effectively.

Consistency is key – if you’re consistently present, participating, and working hard; I will do everything I can to help you understand the material, pass the class, and leave equipped to fulfil your civic responsibilities.

**I have read and understand the syllabus for Coach Murphy’s Class.**

**Student’s Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Name (Print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**If not listed or different than Infinite Campus**

**Parent/Guardian Phone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**