

Blayne Coleman
MTCHS Room # 102
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United States Government

Overview: This year long course is a study of the origins, development, structure, and policies of the United States Government and political system. Topics include the following: constitutional framework, federalism, the three branches or institutions of government, including the bureaucracy, civil rights and liberties, political participation and behavior, policy formation and global politics. Basic concepts of state and local government and their relationships with the federal government are also examined.

To increase comprehension students will read and analyze relevant primary and secondary source documents to incorporate these ideas into the assigned material. Satisfactory completion of the course will prepare students to take the state mandated U.S. Civics exam.

Expectations and Procedures:

1. Make-up work--Check moodle, talk to another student or see me outside of class time. Do not ask me what we did two minutes before class. Schedule a time to meet with me if you need assistance.
2. Late work follows the MTCHS late work policy as stated in the MTCHS handbook.
LATE WORK: Students may receive no more than 70% for any late assignment. Late work policies are defined by individual instructors in course syllabi. No late work will be accepted after the end of grading terms such as quarter and semester. Any late or missing assignments will be scored based on original scoring. If the student earns a 70% or higher, then the student will receive a 70% on the assignment. If the student earns less than a 70%, he/she will earn that percentage. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with by individual teachers.
3. You will need to take notes and participate in class discussions. I have high expectations for you and in order for you to succeed and to enjoy our time together you need to be present and accountable for the information.
4. No cell phones. I will not budge on this. If there is an opportunity for personal devices I will let you know, otherwise you don't bring them out in our classroom. If I see them you will get one warning, the second time it will go on my desk, and the third you will be directed to the office. If you have an emergency, let me know and we will work something out.
5. I have a zero tolerance rule about gaming within my classroom.

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Recognize how various levels of government interact in federalism
- Identify and describe the key functions of the three branches of government, as well as formal and informal political institutions
- Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in governance
- Explain how government and politics impact your daily life

- Assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation, and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect political outcomes in the United States, through electoral and nonelectoral politics

Textbooks and Required Materials:

1. McClenaghan, William A. Magruder's American Government. Boston, MA: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2011. Print.
2. We the People: The Citizens & The Constitution-Level 3. 4th ed. Calabasas: Center for Civic Education, 2016. Print

Grading Policy- Follows MTCHS School Policy

A – 90% and higher

B – 80-89%

C – 70-79%

NC < 69%

Behavioral Expectations: Every student has the right to a respectful learning environment. In order to provide this right to all students, students must take individual responsibility to conduct themselves in a mature and appropriate manner and will be held accountable for their behavior. Students who disrupt the class or behave inappropriately or disrespectfully, as determined by the instructor, may be asked to leave the classroom.

Plagiarism Statement: All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. All material found during research must be correctly documented to avoid plagiarism. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and violations may result in disciplinary action ranging from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. Repeated acts of academic dishonesty may have more severe ramifications.