

General information Government

Course number 21063100



Course Overview: The purpose of the course of instruction is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the development and functioning of the government of the United States. This will be accomplished through a variety of means reading, formal assessment, critical thinking, group and Socratic discussion, with an emphasis on applying/understanding government and its functions to the student through real world examples. Students will be stretched and it is expected that they also be mentally stimulated in class, a great attitude and an OPINION is a great thing to bring with you!

Course objectives: The course will be broken down into 7 units with the below number of days allocation for each unit.

Unit #	Government Unit	Number of days
1	Foundations of Government	18
2	Legislative Branch	9
3	Executive Branch	9
4	Judicial Branch	12
5	Civil rights and Liberties	10
6	Obligations of Citizenship	10
7	State and Local	5

Course Vocabulary: Term limits, professional licenses , governor, Lieutenant Governor, legislature, elections , personal property tax, municipality, city charter, urban, rural, city manager, mayor/council, social contracts, divine right, force theory, evolutionary theory, Inalienable rights, direct democracy, divine right, social contract, representative government, unicameral, bicameral, Shay\'s Rebellion, interstate commerce, intrastate commerce, ratify, census, bicameral, joint resolution, simple resolution, concurrent resolution, oversight, apportionment, redistricting, gerrymandering, PACs, veto, override, standing committee, conference committee, sub-committee, seniority, initiative, referendum, recall, closed primary, open primary, lobbying, special interest group, petition, jus sanguinis, jus soli, alien, Naturalization, resident alien, Homeland Security.

Sunshine State Standards: SS.912.C.1.1, SS.912.C.1.2, SS.912.C.1.3, SS.912.C.1.4, SS.912.C.1.5, SS.912.C.2.1, SS.912.C.2.10, SS.912.C.2.11, SS.912.C.2.12, SS.912.C.2.13, SS.912.C.2.14, SS.912.C.2.15, SS.912.C.2.16, SS.912.C.2.2, SS.912.C.2.3, SS.912.C.2.4, SS.912.C.2.5, SS.912.C.2.6, SS.912.C.2.7, SS.912.C.2.8, SS.912.C.2.9, SS.912.C.3.1, SS.912.C.3.10, SS.912.C.3.11, SS.912.C.3.12, SS.912.C.3.13, SS.912.C.3.14, SS.912.C.3.15, SS.912.C.3.2, SS.912.C.3.3, SS.912.C.3.4, SS.912.C.3.5, SS.912.C.3.6, SS.912.C.3.7, SS.912.C.3.8, SS.912.C.3.9, SS.912.C.4.1, SS.912.C.4.2, SS.912.C.4.3, SS.912.C.4.4

Textbook: *McClenaghan, William A. Magruder's American Government. Needham, MA: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004. Print.*

Grade Scale: 100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59-0%	F

Grade Composition: Each assignment will be scored out of 100, tests and test essays will be weighted *3 and group projects (if assigned) will be weighted *4

Beginning of Class: Bell work will be posted every day and you should begin working on the assignment as the Tardy bell is ringing, when I come in from hallway duty, I know I will see everyone doing their work, right? It is designed to get you thinking about the days LEQ and there is NO wrong answer except one that you do not attempt!

Tardiness: School policy applies here and there will be no tardiness accepted in class unless the student has just returned from an appointment or school meeting requiring a pass.

Passing out work: Let's just say this participation pays! PLEASE do not forget to label your paper as prescribed on the daily agenda sheet!

Late work Policy: If a student has been absent when I have requested specific assignments, you will have one plus two day(s) per days missed to make up the work and hand in completed assignments.

What happens if I am absent? If you are absent, it is *YOUR* responsibility to obtain work from either a homework partner or from the daily folder. If the daily folder is empty or you have difficulty comprehending the exercise, then see the Instructor. Standard school policy applies and you have one plus two day(s) per day missed to makeup work you have missed, unless there are family exceptionalities to the rule, which will be discussed on an as needed basis with the instructor.

Make-up Test: If you miss a test for any reason, it will be your responsibility to make arrangements with the Teacher to take a make-up, again standard one plus one applies. Ignoring this issue will result in zeroing of your test score. MAKE CERTAIN YOU COME AND TALK TO ME!

Extra Credit: This is a privilege not a right and will be given at my discretion although prior notice will be given. Essentially though for this course do not count on it.

Pass Privileges: Be sensible we're tracking you via a clipboard this year and habitual restroom requests will require either a doctor's note to continue or revocation of privilege.

Course Requirements: Ring binder folder, pens (blue or black ink only), pencils, **THREE RING BINDER** (important) lined paper, ruler, colored pencils and **HIGHLIGHTERS.**

Homework: Your time is your time and I am a strong believer in personal growth through socialization with others, however this will be treated as an adult level class and you **MUST** work outside of class time, with either your reading or with a writing assignment; which will typically be a critical thinking question related to the day's work. Approximate time of completion will be anywhere from 5-30 minutes per day. It is *vital for you to complete these tasks as they will set you in good stead for future classes and life!!!*

Website: Much of the information and periodically assignments will be posted on our family educational website, www.harvieconnection.com, please view this site on a regular basis. I will of course give you a heads up if there is something specific I need for you to look at on said site. *This site is fully functional and will help you greatly!!!*

Now for the good stuff: As a firm believer in class interaction and questioning (yes even of me☺), I will award points for excellent questions, great adherence to class procedures, great organization and a good sense

of preparation for my class. After a cumulative collection of at least 40 points, you qualify for an additional grade, wherever you need it most at the end of each quarter!

Polk County Assessment: As you may recall at the end of the second semester last school year, all courses that did not have a state standardized test (FSA, EOC) etc. Had to have an End of Year examination (EOY). It is now being called the Polk County Assessment. Whilst the district has NOT yet finalized the weighting of this exam it could be as much as 30% and remember this course is a REQUIRED credit so bottom line...please don't slack off this year, it would kill me not to have you graduate for seniors and or require a retake for all others

Contact Information: As parents I am sure you understand that being reached when you need to be is very hard. Please find below my contact information. I would prefer emails as I can answer them directly and often more thoroughly but please feel free to contact me at any time.

- Email: michael.harvie@polk-fl.net
- Phone (school) 863 421 3281
- Phone (cell) 813 610 6211

Share this handout with your parents or guardian, and then ask them to complete the student information form that is on my website (a good email is VITAL), and return to me for a whopping additional 100 points!!!!

Important final note: In this class, you own what you write. That is at any time we could use a students work in classroom analysis. This is not designed to ridicule or belittle ANYONE. On the contrary I want you to be passionate and pay attention to what you are producing, and more so.... *Be proud that it is your BEST effort!!!*