

12th Grade Government Syllabus



Teachers' Contact Information

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Course Overview

This course will focus on **analyzing and understanding how our U.S. Government works**. The goal of this class is to use the philosophy and principles of Facing History and Ourselves as a way of helping our students understand that **they can make a difference in our beautiful country and the rest of the world**. The course work will be grounded in the question: **How do I relate to and how can I influence aspects of Government?** First semester, we will be looking at how Democracy works, what it means, and how one can make a difference in society. Furthermore, we will be touching on subjects such as Immigration, the 3 branches of government, elections and much more.

Required Class Materials (*You are expected to purchase and bring these materials to class*)

- Notebook
- One 2-pocket folder
- Black or blue pens

Classroom Rules

Students are expected to be positive members of the learning community. This means coming prepared to be fully engaged on a daily basis, staying focused, asking questions, and following the community values. In addition, this implies that students will be in full uniform before entering the classroom no hats, hoodies, jeans, sweatpants etc. The classroom rules are:

- 1. Arrive early or on time**
- 2. Be prepared with required materials**
- 3. Stay awake and engaged**
- 4. Wait your turn to speak**
- 5. Be supportive**

If you break a classroom rule, here are the follow-up actions.

- 1. Redirect**

What this sounds like: *"Mike, I love your enthusiasm but remember to raise your hand to participate instead of calling out, so we give everyone a chance to think of an answer."*

- 2. Warning (Verbal or STOP Card)**

What this sounds like: *"Imani, when you call out, it disrupts other people from coming to their own answer or conclusions. This is your warning about calling out."*

- 3. Action Requested from Student (by Chris or Alicia)**

What this sounds like: *"Jerry, your classmate was called on but couldn't answer because you called out the answer. Can you please apologize either now or sometime before class dismisses? Thanks!"*

- 4. One-on-One (with Chris or Alicia)**

What this sounds like: *"Stephanie, come talk with me in the hallway." Then we have a conversation about calling out in the hallway.*

- 5. Call home and/or sent to Courtney/Admin office**

What this sounds like: *"Chris, today is just not your day. I need you to take your stuff and this pass and head to the admin office. I'll pop in after class to talk with you."*

We aim to create a safe learning environment, where everyone works to the best of their ability to not harm, hurt, or offend others. We know it is not feasible to create a space where harmful, hurtful, offensive words and language are not used because we are all human and make mistakes. However, we work to remedy and communicate language that is used in ways that may be hurtful. If you think words have been used to harm, hurt, or offend someone, **please do not let it go**. Do something:

- a. talk to Chris or Alicia, so they can address it
- b. *respectfully* address it in the moment → do not combat harmful, hurtful, or offensive language with MORE harmful, hurtful, and offensive language.

Attendance in class is mandatory. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to complete the work you missed and catch up. The work will be available to collect in the classroom as well as to download directly from Google Classroom. If you need extra support, there will be student tutors and office hours for you to check-in with the teacher (before school, during lunch, or after school).

If you are **late to class** and are with an adult, ensure the adult writes you a pass. If you are just late for no good reason, please come in, sign the late log and get to work. Don't waste more learning time trying to find a pass. Multiple latenesses will result in a call home.

Cell phone Policy

Cell phones are allowed in the school building but must be locked in your lockers. If you have your cell phone out during class, **you will be asked to put it away (warning). What will happen with your cell phone depends on how you respond.**

The teacher will either keep it until:

- a. the end of the class period then give it back to you before you leave
- b. the end of the day then give it back to you when you come get it after 8th period
- c. turn the cell phone into the admin office/dean office

Bathroom/Water Fountain Policy

No students can use the bathroom/get a drink of water during the first 10 minutes of class or last 10 minutes of class. Only one person is allowed to be out of the classroom at a time.

You must ask the teacher for permission without interrupting the class, sign out, and take the pass. Refer to the classroom door for procedure if you forget.

FHS Grading Policy

In order to better support students and create better consistency, we have adopted a common grading policy. The school-wide breakdown and minimum number of graded assignments to be

entered into PupilPath by the end of each semester are the following:

- **Learning Activities:** Classwork, Participation,
3-5 activities each week = roughly 60 to 80 per semester
- **Formative Assessments:** Short Projects, Short Writing
2-4 rubric guided assignments per unit = roughly 8 per semester
- ***Summative Assessments:** Exams, Extended Writing, Projects
1-2 per unit = roughly 6 per semester

*Summative assessment grades always have the opportunity to be revised **IF** a student wants a higher grade. See teacher for more information.

Semester 1

Unit 1: What Makes Democracy Work?

Unit 2: 3 Branches of Government/ Functions of Government

Unit 3: Choices in Little Rock

Unit 4: Elections in the United States

Unit 5: Facing Ferguson

Unit 6: Choosing to Participate