

American Government

In American government we will focus on many different objectives ranging from the study of the origin, history, structure, functions, and processes of our American political system. We will study how we as citizens are involved with and influenced by political parties and interest groups and how each affects the workings of our political system. Also, we will discuss your role as a voter and detail the electoral process.

Class Materials: Notebook (only if you prefer to write your notes), Pen (**Blue or Black Ink Only**) or Pencil, Flash Drive (highly recommended) and a Positive Attitude – **Needed Everyday!**

Classroom Rules: Be on time, be prepared, be respectful of everyone and everything, and be on task.

**Cell Phones:** All cell phones are to be placed on the counter according to your row and seat number. This must be done by the second bell. All phones should be turned to **SILENT**. Any first offense violation will result in me keeping the phone until the end of the day. Second and any further offenses will be handled by the office. Remember backpacks and purses are not allowed in the classroom.

Text Book/Laptops: The textbook for this class is online. Students will be given a username and password to access the text. Students may access the text from any computer that has an internet connection and will be responsible for making arrangements outside of class (staying after school, coming in early, public library, etc.) to complete homework and prepare for tests. The Commons is available for you to use the internet as long as the building is open.

**If you are in the Success Center because of your government grade you will NOT be allowed to use your laptop unless it is specifically needed to complete assigned tasks. Note taking must be done in a notebook. You will regain the use of your laptop at midterm or quarter, whichever applies, if your government grade is in passing status.**

Beginning of Class: Class begins with the **2<sup>nd</sup> Bell**. If you are not in your seat promptly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell, you are late. If you have any make-up slips, they will be signed during this time. We will do an opening activity at the beginning of each class. These activities may range from discussing an article from the newspaper and current events, reviewing previously discussed concepts, or previewing the day's lesson.

Participation: You will receive a daily participation grade for your time in this class. You will earn your points as long as you are **prepared** and **actively** engaged in the learning of government. This means working on opening activities, note taking, participating in discussions, working on government homework, following classroom rules, having required class materials, etc. You will earn two points each day for a total of approximately **80 points** per quarter. Participation points will be figured every two weeks. You'll be allowed one unexcused absence per grading period. After one unexcused absence you will receive an X in the grade book, meaning the points won't help you or hurt you.

Leaving the Room: Trips to your locker and restroom will be strictly limited. I will only allow you to use the restroom if it is an emergency, so please use the restroom between classes. Trips to the guidance office or office will also only be allowed in the case of an emergency.

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I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand Mr. Docker's classroom policies and procedures.  
Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I \_\_\_\_\_ have read, understood, and agree to abide by Mr. Docker's classroom policies and procedures.  
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make-up Work: If you miss class it is your responsibility to come and see me. If you miss class and come to school later in the day you are expected to stop in and get your make-up work. If you have missed several days you should come see me before school the day of your return. Tests and quizzes need to be made up **ASAP!** You must do this either before or after school, during study hall, or during DEAR. **Make-up work is your responsibility. I will NOT chase you down and tell you that you need to turn in assignments or make things up.** You will have the number of days absent plus one to get your work in as stated in the student handbook. It is hard to do well when you're not here.

Late Work: If you do not turn an assignment in when I collect homework, then the work is late. I will only accept late work the **next day** after the assignment is due. This will result in the loss of one letter grade. **Late work will NOT be accepted after the next day.**

Class Grade: Your grade in this class will be determined by scores on homework, tests, quizzes, papers, projects, and participation.

Cheating: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Turning in identical work to someone else on a nongroup project or assignment will be considered cheating. If caught cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a **zero** on that assignment.

Test Taking: When taking tests in my room all books, notebooks, computers, etc. must be shoved under your desk. Nothing is to be in the aisles. All tests must be completed before the period is over unless otherwise notified, and there should be absolutely no talking during test time. On test days you should bring a book to read or something else to work on in case you finish early. If you do not have something else to work on you should be completing the reading assignment. Time after tests is not to be used surfing the internet or playing games.

Web Site/Schedule: On my web site you will find a copy of the syllabus, daily activity schedule, and the notes for each chapter (you will not be able to print the notes). To get to my web site go to [www.centrallyon.org](http://www.centrallyon.org), choose the classroom pages tab, choose HS Social Studies, then find my name.

It is your responsibility to keep track of when tests and quizzes are. If you know you are having a test or quiz, which you do because they're on your activity sheet, you are expected to be prepared for it.

Extra Help: If you are ever confused, have questions on homework, or need help preparing for tests, come and see me. I **cannot** read your mind, so if you need help, **ASK!** I will go out of my way to help those who seek help and work hard. I am always available before school and when not coaching I'm available after school as well. Remember that if you have questions on a homework assignment or test preparation the worst time to ask is during the period they are due.

Fire Drill: Exit quickly and quietly through the NW exit in the elementary wing.

Tornado Drill: Sit quietly in the hallway north of the SE wing.

Quote for the Year: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." –James Madison