



Reynolds High School

Course Syllabus: American Government

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Welcome to American Government! I am looking forward to getting to know you and helping you explore how our system of government works.

Required Textbooks/Materials: Our textbook will be Active Classroom, an online resource. Some assignments will be completed online so it is essential that you bring your Chromebook to class each day.

You will need:

- 1) a **one subject spiral notebook** for notes.
- 2) a **section in a binder** (or a folder) for handouts.
- 3) your **Chromebook**. Bring your Chromebook to class every day.

Course Requirements: Students need to be present and participate actively in class each day. Most class sessions will require a combination of notes taken and participation in an activity or discussion. Students should be checking Schoology daily and completing their assignments. Below is a description of what we will study, but checking Schoology on Monday is the best way to see exactly what we are doing each week.

Course Description: The goal of American Government class is to help students understand the history behind our system of government, how it functions, and how they can participate in it. It meets these state standards:

- 1) Understand the events and thinking that led to the development of American government.
- 2) Describe the key structures and processes established in the Constitution (the executive, legislative and judicial branches).
- 3) Distinguish between the different levels of government (local, state, national).
- 4) Develop an understanding of American foreign policy.
- 5) Examine documents related to the Constitution and key Supreme Court decisions, including those related to Native Americans.
- 6) Identify opportunities for active participation in our political system.
- 7) Analyze an event, issue or problem from varied or opposing viewpoints.

Grading Policy: The following categories will make up your grade.

30%: Assessments and the Final Exam

65%: Classwork (completed during class or independently)

5%: POWER Expectations

POWER is a set of school-wide goals. Students are expected to be:

P--- Punctual and Prepared (Be on time and prepared)

O--- Organized (Use a planner or organizational system)

W--- Writers (Write notes daily in classes)

E--- Engaged (Participate, communicate with teacher, **phone away during class**)

R--- Respectful (Demonstrate a respectful attitude, do not distract others)

Letter Grade Description & Percentage Breakdown

Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Description
100% - 90%	A	The student fully understands the content and the course objectives have been mastered.
89% - 80%	B	The student understands the content and course objectives at an above average level.
79% - 70%	C	The student understands the course content and course objectives at an average level.
69% - 60%	D	The student understands the course content at a below average level and a minimum of course objectives are met.
59% - 0%	F	The student has not met a sufficient number of course objectives to pass a minimum level and receives no credit.

Late Work/Retake Policy: Late work is worth half credit until the announced cut off for each Unit. After that it will not be accepted. There are no retakes on tests.

Unit topics will include:

Unit 1 (Weeks 1-3): Origins of American government
Key ideas and philosophers
Key events

Unit 2 (Weeks 4,5): The US Constitution
Exam 1 around 2/26/25

Unit 3 (Weeks 6-8): The Bill of Rights
The Criminal Justice System
Bill of Rights quiz around 3/20/25

Unit 4 (Weeks 9-11): The Executive Branch
 The Legislative Branch
 The Judicial Branch
 Foreign Policy

Unit 5 (Weeks 12-14): Elections
 Political Parties
 Voting

Unit 6 (Weeks 15-17): Oregon Government
 Oregon's Tribal History
 Review for Final Exam

Final Exam and Senior's Last Day: 6/4/25

