



Reynolds High School
1698 SW Cherry Park Road
Troutdale, OR 97060
503-667-3186 • FAX 503-669-0776

Course: Government (1 semester, ½ credit, required to graduate) Instructor: Evan Selby

Room: 514 Phone: 503-667-3186; ext. 1041 Email: eselby@rsd7.net

Course Description: This course studies the creation of American Government and the major institutions and processes in American Government. It includes the study of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government, the electoral process and voting. Students explore ways to participate in American government and respectfully discuss current events.

What will we learn?

Forms of Government/Foundations of U.S. Government

- What types of government exist in our world?
- How did the U.S. government begin?

Our Constitution

- Basic Structure of Our Constitution
 - How is our Constitution organized?
 - Scavenger hunt—getting to know your articles
 - Three branches of government—Legislative, Executive, Judicial
- What are the Guiding Principles of Our Constitution?
 - What ideas were used to craft our Constitution?
 - Identifying examples of the Guiding Principles in our Constitution
- Comparing the U.S. Constitution to Oregon's Constitution

What Rights Do We Have in Our Bill of Rights?

- Natural rights philosophy
- Getting to know your rights—the first 10 amendments
- First Amendment and our civil liberties
- Amendments 4-8, understanding our criminal justice system
- How does the Supreme Court impact our rights?

Political Participation and Voting

- How do you participate in our democracy?
- Voting and voting rights
- Political parties

Materials

- Chromebook or your own personal laptop/device (not a phone)
- Notebook/binder and your planner
- Paper, pencil and/or pen

Classroom Expectations: Follow student code of conduct, be prepared, be on time, and be respectful of self and others. Be organized and **check Schoology daily** for updates and assignments.

Attendance and Lateness

Perfect attendance is always the goal. Perfect attendance is defined as being on time and fully engaged during the entire class session. If you are late, please enter quietly, check the agenda in Schoology, and acclimate yourself to the classroom. Your tardiness will be recorded.

Electronic Devices

There are 168 hours in each week; that's about 10,080 minutes. We are together for roughly 180-225 of those minutes; that's about 2% of the total number of minutes per week. Trust me, I think technology and cell phones are AWESOME, but we will act as if they don't exist during the 3-4 hours that we spend together each week. You are **focusing on YOU and YOUR LEARNING** during this time. It's only about 5% of your week. That call, text, tweet, snapchat, or notification? Save it for the other 92% of your life when you're not at school. To put it plainly, **cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in class**, as per district policy, without prior arrangements. If you are expecting crucial information during class time, then please let me know **BEFORE** class begins so we can create a non-disruptive plan for you to receive it. Cell phones need to put in your backpack/bag or in the cell phone holder once class gets started.

Grading and Assessment Practices—Grading is weighted with the following categories:

- Classwork/reading notes = **30%**
- Flocabulary activities = **15%** (used to introduce topics; **must earn at least 70%** on each Flocabulary assignment to earn credit)
- Structured Academic Controversies = **15%** (used to teach civic dialogue and learn about current events; **these are in-person activities and can't be made up online**)
- Quizzes = **10%** (reading notes and handouts can be used on quizzes/tests)
- Summative evaluation/project = **25%**
 - Bill of Rights Test = 10% (**must memorize all rights and pass with 100%**, can take multiple times)
 - Persuasive Essay = 15% (this will be our **semester final**)
- POWER expectations = **5%**

Letter grades will be based on the following percentages:

- 100%-97.5%= A+
- 97.49%-92.5%=A
- 92.49%-90%=A-
- 89.99%-87.5%=B+
- 87.49%-82.5%=B
- 82.49%-80%=B-
- 79.99%-77.5%=C+
- 77.49%-72.5%=C
- 72.49%-70%=C
- 67.49%-62.5%=D
- 62.49%-60%=D-
- 59.99%-50%=F
- 49.99%-0%=No Grade, student did not complete adequate number of assignments and/or did not demonstrate proficiency on assessments

Please sign and have your parent/guardian sign below to indicate understanding of expectations.

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date