

American Government/Civics Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Tiffany Curran

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Room: GG-100

Course Overview: American Government offers an overview of political systems. The course begins with comparisons of these systems and then focuses on their nature and structure in the United States. The course will address the roots of America's political ideals, the beginnings of government in the U.S., and discuss the development and evolution of these ideals into the modern era. This course will follow the standards for American Government as outlined by the Georgia state standards known as the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS).

Text: *American Government: Democracy in Action* – Glencoe

Students are financially responsible for all books issued by Independence High School. Textbooks may not be left in classrooms, and teachers are not responsible for students' books once books have been issued to the student. The copy issued to the student must be turned in by the end of the course. Students will not receive credit for turning in another student's book, and students may not turn in replacement books. The cost of a replacement (\$82.71) will be assigned to any student who fails to turn in the exact book she/he was issued and/or to any student that turns in a damaged book (i.e. broken binding, torn pages, water damage, writing, etc.).

Instruction: The course is presented thematically then chronologically. This course is designed to meet each student at his/her optimal learning level and style and incorporates differentiated instruction to accommodate various learning modalities, integrated technology, and additional resources to provide extra support, remediation and extension.

Technology Integration: Technology will be incorporated into the lessons in order to promote active engagement, participation in groups, frequent interaction with faculty and peers, provide constructive feedback, and connection to real-world experiences. Various forms of technology will be used such as, but not limited to, Edmodo, Digital Media, and Promethean Boards. Some of the websites include, USA Test Prep, Classzone, Edgenuity, Fulton Connect, Edmodo, Study Island, and more interactive links.

Grading: Students will be assessed as follows:

Class Assignments	25%	
Essay/Project	15%	A= 90 and above
Quizzes	10%	B= 80-89
Tests	20%	C= 70-79
Participation	10%	F= Below 70
Final Exam	20%	
Total:	100%	

*By state law any grade below 70 is failing

Classwork/Participation: Students are expected to actively and substantively contribute to class discussions and group work. Class Participation points are deducted for, but not limited to, (1)talking during instruction, (2)failing to remain actively engaged, (3)attempting to use an electronic device, (4)staying off task during class, and (5)distracting peers and/or disrupting the class.

Late Submissions: Points will be deducted for assignments or projects submitted after the due date. Point deduction is as follows: 1 day late -10pts, 2 days late -20 points, 3 days late -30 points. **Assignments will not be accepted beyond the 3rd day of the due date.**

Recovery: Provision for Improving Grades

1. Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when **all** work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance and participation in Remediation/Enrichment sessions. Enrichment will be offered on Wednesdays from 2:20-3:20.

2. **Students should contact the teacher** concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be **completed five (5) school days prior to the end of the mini-semester.**

Absence and Tardy Make-up Procedures: Upon returning to school following an absence it is the **student's responsibility** to contact the teacher after class to request make-up work on the first day back at school after an absence. **Make-up work must be completed by the student within 48 hours upon return to the class.**

Teacher/Parent Communication:

1. Parents may view their student's attendance and academic progress via Parent Connect/Home Access or email the teacher directly.
2. Progress reports are distributed directly to the student every 6 weeks.
3. Calls, emails, and written notifications will be sent to the parents by the teacher when issues arise.

Classroom Expectations and Rules:

- Be on time.
- Be prepared to learn and actively participate.
- Be respectful to faculty, staff and peers.
- Be focused on the assigned task or topic.
- **No cell phone usage at all.** If a cell phone is seen by the teacher, the teacher will request it for the remainder of the period. Refusal to comply with the request will result in a referral to administration.
- Permission and a hall pass must be given by the teacher before a student can leave the class.

Academic Honesty Expectations:

It is the sincere hope of the Independence HS administration and faculty that all students will demonstrate the highest level of academic honesty. The following information is designed to encourage this desire.

Violations of the Independence High School Academic Honesty Expectations include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1.) Using words or ideas from a published source without proper documentation.
- 2.) Using the work of another student (e.g. copying another student's homework, class assignment, test, composition, or project) **Discipline referrals will be submitted to administration and the grade earned will be divided equally among the students involved.**
- 3.) Using excessive editing suggestions of another student, teacher, parent, or paid editor.
- 4.) Using any electronic device for sharing information prior to, during, or after a graded experience.

**plagiarism-the use of another's words or ideas and the presentation of them as though they are entirely one's own.*

Wikipedia: Wikipedia is not an appropriate source for academic use. Any use of Wikipedia is strictly prohibited and credit will **not** be given for any information which comes from Wikipedia.

Failure to meet these expectations on any graded experience, project, or paper will result in a zero on the assignment for all parties involved. Parent/Student notification and administering of the consequences will be done by the teacher and administrator. Unless stipulated by the teacher, collaboration on graded experiences is not acceptable. Students who willingly provide other students with access to their work are in violation of the Independence High School Honor Code.