



United States Government Mr. Chisholm



U.S. Government is a state-mandated, one-semester course which explores the question: “What is effective engagement?” The course is structured to promote your interaction with other members of the class as you examine political materials, methods and problems. You are expected to show growth in your knowledge, understanding and application of the subject matter and to demonstrate your problem-solving, decision making and critical thinking skills.

Course Units/Questions:

1. ***The Political Spectrum:*** What is the balance between individual rights and the common good? What distinguishes the differences between liberals and conservatives? How should local, state and federal governments share power?
2. ***Elections:*** How do elected officials represent us? Why does my civic participation matter?
3. ***Legislating Change:*** How does a bill become a law? How do people and institutions influence the legislative process?
4. ***Democracy in Action:*** How are the powers of the government checked? How can the abuse of power be avoided?

Process Objectives:

By the end of the course, you will have demonstrated your ability to:

1. Ask questions and evaluate political resources.
2. Do research and identify resources.
3. Organize and present material.
4. Identify and examine values and value conflicts.
5. Explain cause and effect relationships.
6. Recognize and propose inferences and generalizations.
7. Know and be able to apply a decision making model to problem solving.
8. Resolve conflicts/problems in a logical manner.
9. Analyze and interpret maps, graphs charts and tables.
10. Work with others in a responsible, cooperative manner.

Activities:

The major activities of the course include:

1. Writing (journals, newspaper articles, essays, etc.)
2. critical reading
3. speaking
4. research
5. simulations, debates, role-playing
6. class discussions
7. multi-media analysis
8. quizzes, tests and performance evaluations
9. lecture and note-taking
10. successful completion of portfolio



Evaluation:

Students are graded on a total point system. Points can be earned by the activities listed above. Students who receive 100-90% of the possible points will earn an A, 89-80% a B, 79-70% a C, 69-60% a D, below 60% and F.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

Because a large portion of your evaluation is in-class performance, absences will hurt your progress and final grade. Each student is wholly responsible for completing work which can be made up. Please see me before or after school for the assignments. Upon return, a student has five days to turn in any missing work for full credit. Any work turned in after that time is worth half-credit and can only be turned in until papers are passed back.

Tardiness

I do not expect that tardiness will be a problem. The school policy is two tardies, parents are notified, three or more, referral to the Dean's office.

Cell Phone/Technology Policy

I expect that you come to class every day with a full charged chromebook. We will frequently use our chromebooks for projects and assessments. When taking assessments, cell phones and listening to music will not be allowed. Violation of this policy will result in you receiving a zero for the assessment. Listening to music via cell phones is permitted during designated work time. **Cell phones must be put away during all other times.** Repeated violations of listening to music or playing video games via your cell phone will result in you receiving a zero on your next participation check.

Homework

This semester, you can be late with one assignment in each unit (at no penalty). You can use your late pass on up to 4 assignments as long as the assignment is turned in before the end of the unit in which it was assigned. If you do not use the pass, you will be awarded 5 points extra credit for each unused pass. Please understand that you must be responsible for this card because it is irreplaceable and non-transferable. Late assignments turned in after the end of the unit in which it was assigned are worth 50% of their original value.

Binder

Every student is required to purchase a 2 inch minimum hardcover binder specifically for this class. You will keep the majority of your work in this binder. You will also keep all your portfolio assignments in your binder.

Expectations

I totally expect all students to act responsibly, strive to do their best, interact respectfully with classmates and teachers and achieve personal growth and success during our time together.

Have a problem?

I am available during the day and before and after school in room 2608. Please let me know if you are coming before or after school through my email jchisholm@d94.org.

John Chisholm, US Government Teacher

Email: jchisholm@d94.org (preferred)

630-876-6456

Room: 2608

