



**U.S. Government**  
2020-2021

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Google Classroom Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Course Description

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This American Government course provides students multiple opportunities to develop an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States, to develop civic commitment and capacity, and to build a well-informed, thoughtful response to the question; "What is the proper role of government in our democracy?" This course will look at the organization and operation of our federal, state and local governments, including the relations of these governments to each other. Current events will be analyzed and discussed frequently. The concepts covered are designed to prepare students for successful completion of the U.S. Government & Politics course. Passing this course entitles dual-enrolled students to 3 college credits through the College of Western Idaho.

## Course Objectives

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The student will understand the foundations, development, and features of the U.S. Constitution.

The student will understand how media, interest groups, and political parties serve as institutions to connect people to government.

The student will understand how political values, attitudes, and behaviors are learned, organized, and expressed.

The student will understand the operation of a political campaign, types of elections, and the factors that affect election outcomes.

The student will understand the structure, functions, and operations of the institutions and funding of the U.S. government.

The student will understand how civil liberties and civil rights protect both the individual and categories of people

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## Course Units

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Foundations of Gov. Beginning of American Govt. Constitution/Federalism	Legislative Branch Executive Branch	Judicial Branch Civil Rights/Liberties Public Opinion, Media, and Interest Groups	Elections State and Local Comparative Government

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## Materials

**Required:** Until told otherwise, **masks**. Wearing a mask when social distance cannot be achieved (like a classroom) is expected. Bring writing materials, a notebook in which you can organize your notes, a charged laptop and a willingness to learn every day. Colored pencils and/or markers will be occasionally needed.

Recommended items include; Tissues, Disinfecting Wipes, Hand Sanitizer

Thank You!

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## Skyward Grading

Score Method	Term Grades (MHS Policy)	Grading Scale (MHS Policy)
Weighted Grades 60% Tests, Quizzes, Projects 30% Homework, Daily Work 10% Participation	<b>Fall</b> Semester 1= 80% End of Course Assessment=20% <b>Spring</b> Semester 2= 80% End of Course Assessment=20%	A=90%-100% B=80%-89% C=70%-79% D=60%-69% F=Below 60%

## Textbook/Online Resources

Each classroom will have a set of textbooks for classroom activities. These will greatly enrich the educational experience. If a student wants to check a textbook out to study at home they will need to go through Mrs. Legg in the Library. The full e-textbook is available online through Pearson. Many readings and assignments will be given through this platform. **CHARGED** laptops every day is essential!

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## Make-Up Work (MHS Policy)

Papers, assignments, tests, etc. that were announced while the student was in attendance prior to the absence are due to be submitted or completed on the day the student returns to school. A student will be allowed two (2) school days for each day of excused absence to make up material presented during the absence. Make-up time is not to exceed ten (10) days from the time a student returns to school after an absence. Additional time may be granted at the principal's discretion under extenuating circumstances. When a student has been absent for three (3) or more consecutive school days due to illness or excused absence the parent or student may call the Attendance Office to request make-up homework be sent to the office for pick-up. Please allow 24 hours for teachers to respond before coming to the office to pick up work. **In the case of pre-arranged absences, it is the responsibility of the student to contact individual teachers for any make-up work prior to the absence.**

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## Late Work

I WILL take points off work turned in late. Late work WILL also be graded more critically because of the additional time. If you have extenuating circumstances contact me BEFORE the assignment is due and we can make another arrangement that I will hold you accountable for. If this becomes a pattern then I will be less likely to allow extensions. NO assignments can be accepted after a grading period ends.

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## Classroom Rules and Procedures

The student **MUST** observe the code of conduct in the student handbook at all times!

### Cell Phones

Middleton High School assigns laptops (1:1 program) for student use. This makes the use of cellphones during class time a non-negotiable, unnecessary accessory. Due to the increasing amount of distractions, behavioral issues, cheating, and non-educational use which cell phones are causing in the classroom, cell phones will **not** be allowed in the classroom. Cell phones must remain out of sight in the classroom and will be sent to the front office if this is not followed. All cell phones that are sent to the front office can only be picked up by a parent/guardian after school. Cell phone storage is offered and encouraged. Students will be **REQUIRED** to put their cell phones in storage during tests.

Students will enter the room on time with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

- Have materials ready for class when it begins.
- Be engaged in content up until the bell. **NEVER "LINE UP"!!!**
- Do not distract yourself or others from what is being taught.
- Minimal time will be spent on breaks

Students will show respect to all members of the classroom.

- Students will keep a kind tone when talking to each other and the teacher
- Foul or questionable language is prohibited and will be **STRICTLY** enforced!
- Do not visit when the Teacher or another student has the floor

- Maintain a volume in which learning can be achieved.
- Respect classmates' personal space and belongings.
- Theft will be dealt with severely. Never touch my desk or cabinets.
- YES! This means YOU!

Students will use technology and facilities in a way that is beneficial to learning.

- Laptops are used only for educational purposes (no games).
- Bring them charged every day! Bring your charger as well.
- Food/Drink use needs to be reasonable. If you need a snack or drink at some point I expect you to be mature enough to take care of your needs without disruption to the class and with the ability to not cause work for me or the custodial staff. If this becomes an issue, I reserve the right to ban this privilege.
- Food wrappers NEVER go into recycling!

## **CLASSROOM DAILY PROCEDURES**

Students should walk into the room, sit down and immediately follow the instructions on the board, even before the bell rings. This will be done in their bell ringer notebook which could be used on an open note quiz at any time. If a student is absent they will have to make note of those days in their notebook or they will lose credit for that day.

I will take attendance right when the bell rings. Each student should be in their assigned seat at this time or they will be marked tardy.

You may be called on at any time to repeat what I teach, or to add to a discussion, so paying attention in class is paramount to success. Participation points depend on it.

Don't waste laptop battery/time on games or surfing the internet. Charge your laptop at home every night. Computers should be treated with respect as they are school property even if they are assigned to you.

Students are expected to be engaged in content up until the bell rings. No huddling around the door or in the hallway.

Don't expect to leave class unless you really need to use the restroom. This will not be offered at the beginning of class. Don't use this time to talk to other teachers or do other business. You may email teachers if you have questions about grades, don't interrupt class for this purpose. These should be limited. You will be marked truant if you leave for too much of class without a great excuse from another staff member.

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## **Discipline**

Students who violate the code of conduct will be disciplined according to the student handbook and school and district policies.

Things that **WILL** get you sent to the office immediately and a call to parent/guardian (SRO?):

- 1) Vaping
  - 2) Habitual/Repetitive Vulgarity
  - 3) Inappropriate Laptop Use
  - 4) Refusal to refrain from Cell Phone use
  - 5) Blatant Insubordination
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### **Academic Integrity (MHS Policy)**

All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. All material found during research must be correctly documented/cited to avoid plagiarism. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on course assignments or exams will lose credit for that assignment or exam. The administration will notify parents. Students may be subject to disciplinary action.

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### **Student & Parent Resources**

School Website: <http://mhs.ms134.org/>

Google Classroom Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Assignment #1**

Go to GoogleClassroom and mark that you have read and understand the syllabus