

**United States Government
Course Syllabus**

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Text:

Daniel M. Shea, Magruder's American Government, (Boston Massachusetts: Pearson, 2016).

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of perspectives on the United States government, its politics, and operations. Students will engage in several activities that will provide them with detailed and practical knowledge of our government's institutions and a general understanding of our country's political behaviors.

Course Objectives:

- ✓ Students will understand the significance and impact of the Constitution on everyday life.
- ✓ Students will understand the protections and privileges of individuals and groups.
- ✓ Students will understand the distribution of power in the federal system.
- ✓ Students will understand the responsibilities of citizenship.
- ✓ Students will demonstrate how historical factors have shaped American ideology.
- ✓ Students will identify government institutions and understand their functions.
- ✓ Students will learn to write clearly and effectively.
- ✓ Students will analyze and evaluate various primary sources.
- ✓ Students will work effectively with others to debate central issues in our political system.
- ✓ Students will demonstrate comprehension with critical assessments.

Course Outline:

Topic 1: Foundations of Government

- Lesson 1: Principles of Government
- Lesson 2: Types of Government
- Lesson 3: Origins of the Modern Democratic State
- Lesson 4: The Basics of Democracy

Topic 2: The Beginnings of American Government

- Lesson 1: Origins of American Political Ideals
- Lesson 2: Independence
- Lesson 3: First Steps
- Lesson 4: Creating and Ratifying the Constitution

Topic 3: The Constitution

- Lesson 1: An Overview of the Constitution
- Lesson 2: Amending the Constitution
- Lesson 3: Federalism—Powers Divided

Topic 4: The legislative Branch

- Lesson 1: National Legislature Overview
- Lesson 2: The Two Houses
- Lesson 3: The Expressed Powers
- Lesson 4: The Implied and Nonlegislative Powers
- Lesson 5: Congress at Work—Organization and Committees
- Lesson 6: Congress at Work—Making Law

Topic 5: The Executive Branch—The Presidency and Vice Presidency

Lesson 1: The Presidency—An Overview

Lesson 2: The Vice President and the First Lady

Lesson 3: The President's Domestic Powers

Lesson 4: The President's Foreign Affairs Powers

Lesson 5: Electing the President (Including Topic 11, Lesson 3)

Topic 6: The Executive Branch at Work

Lesson 1: The Federal Bureaucracy

Lesson 2: The EOP and the Executive Departments

Lesson 3: The Independent Agencies

Lesson 4: Foreign Policy Overview

Lesson 5: Diplomacy

Lesson 6: National Security

Topic 7: The Judicial Branch

Lesson 1: The National Judiciary

Lesson 2: The Supreme Court

Lesson 3: The Inferior Courts and the Special Courts

Student Activities:

- Weekly Current Political Events
- In-class Simulations
- Interpretation of primary source documents, charts, graphs, political cartoons, etc.
- Individual & Group Projects

*****Comprehensive semester final*****

Classroom Behavior:

1. **Be prompt** - Be in your desk and ready to work when the bell rings. (Students will be given an assigned seat at the beginning of the semester)
2. **Be ready** - Have your iPad, textbook, and other class materials on your desk, and all non-U.S. Government materials stored under desk.
3. **Be respectful** - Of the instructor, fellow students, and yourself.
4. **Be responsible** - Complete assignments on time, prepare for quizzes and tests, and do your personal best.
5. **Be neat and careful** - With your personal appearance, your assignments, and your maintenance of this classroom.
6. **Be health smart:** Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. Also, practice washing hands thoroughly and often.

Online Learning Behavior:

1. **Be prepared** – Check Schoology daily for teacher messages and assignments.
2. **Be ready** - Have your iPad, textbook, and other class materials at arm's length.
3. **Be responsible:** Complete assignments on time and upload them in the proper format (Microsoft Word) to the assignment folder in Schoology. Also, prepare for quizzes and tests.

Assignment Policy:

- All assignments must be completed and turned in on time or a zero will be assigned.
- **All daily assignments, essays, quizzes, tests, and projects completed using AI or ChatGPT will receive a zero.**

Grading:

90 – 100%	= A
80 – 89%	= B
70 – 79%	= C
60 – 69%	= D
0 – 59%	= F

Attendance:

1. You are responsible for the work you miss (no excuses for not knowing the assignments).
Use lesson plan found in Schoology.
2. When absent, YOU must try to make up your work ASAP!
3. School related absences – notify in advance! Tests and quizzes should be completed in advance!
4. Know and follow school/instructor policies regarding make-up procedures and late work!

Expectations:

- Bring all materials to class each day (iPad, textbook, notebook, pen, pencil, etc.
- All hardcopy assignments, tests, quizzes, etc. must be completed in pencil. Online assignments must be completed in Microsoft Word.
- Please write your first and last name as well as your period number on all work.
- Your best effort and conduct are always required.
- No food or drink (water is allowed) when in the classroom.
- When in-person learning is happening, no talking when I am talking. You may ask a question at any time. To get my permission to talk, raise your hand.
- Work up to the end of the class period.
- When in the classroom, stay in your seats until the bell rings. **Do not line up at the door!**
- **CELLPHONES ARE TO BE PUT AWAY AND OUT OF SIGHT!**
- **Absolutely no AI or ChatGPT to be used for daily assignments, essays, quizzes, tests, and projects.**
- **Additional expectations for this class can be found in the “Welcome” folder on Schoology.**

What if I am absent from class?

If you are absent, you must make every effort to make up your work as soon as possible. All work for this class is due at the beginning of class-time of the assigned day.

If you miss an exam, which you should make every effort not to do, the instructor may give an alternative version of the exam. You will have to plan with the teacher to make up the exam. Missing a make-up exam will result in a “zero.”

If you miss class due to a school activity, it is your responsibility to let me know this ahead of time. Simply not showing up is not going to cut it. If we are having an exam on the day you are gone, or when work is due, you must take care of this ahead of time.

U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLES & AMENDMENTS

Required Memorization: The Preamble

We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

PREAMBLE: Defines the purpose of the Constitution.

ARTICLE I: Legislative Branch - Organizations, powers, and restraints.

ARTICLE II: Executive Branch - Powers, duties, restraints, and election of the President.

ARTICLE III: Judicial Branch - Powers, restraints, and the definition of Treason.

ARTICLE IV: Relation of the states to each other and to the federal government, guarantees to the states, and government of the territories.

ARTICLE V: Method of Amending the Constitution. Guarantee of equal representation of the states in the U.S. Senate.

ARTICLE VI: Provision for national debts. Supremacy of the United States Constitution, federal laws, and treaties. Pledge of national and state officials to uphold the Constitution. No religious test required as qualification for public office.

ARTICLE VII: Method for ratification of the Constitution.

AMENDMENTS

THE BILL OF RIGHTS (1791)

- 1.** Freedom of religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly.
- 2.** Right to bear arms.
- 3.** Limitation on the quartering of soldiers in private homes.
- 4.** Limitations on search and seizure.
- 5.** Criminal proceedings: due process, eminent domain, no double jeopardy, right to no self incrimination.
- 6.** Right to a fair, speedy, and public trial.
- 7.** Trial by jury in civil cases.
- 8.** Excessive bail and cruel punishment forbidden.
- 9.** People possess rights, other than those enumerated.
- 10.** Undelegated powers belong to the states or to the people.

- 11. Exemption of states from suit by citizens of other states (1795).
- 12. Changes in Electoral College procedure (1804).

CIVIL WAR AMENDMENTS

- 13. Slavery prohibited (1865).
- 14. Definition of citizenship. Guarantees of due process of law and equal protection of the laws against infringement by the states (1868).
- 15. Right of adult male citizens to vote (1870).

PROGRESSIVE ERA AMENDMENTS

- 16. Congress empowered to impose an income tax (1913).
- 17. Popular election of United States Senators (1913).
- 18. Prohibition of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes (1919).
- 19. Right of women to vote (1920).

AMENDMENTS SINCE 1920

- 20. Change in congressional and presidential terms. Abolition of the “lame duck” session of Congress (1933).
- 21. Repeal of the 18th Amendment (1933).
- 22. Limitation of Presidential term of office (1951).
- 23. Presidential vote for the District of Columbia (1961).
- 24. Prohibition of a tax payment as a qualification to vote in federal elections (1964).
- 25. Procedures for determining presidential disability, presidential succession, and for filling a Vice-Presidential Vacancy (1967).’
- 26. Sets the minimum age for voting in all elections at 18 (1971).
- 27. Congressional pay raises will not take place until the subsequent session of Congress (1992).

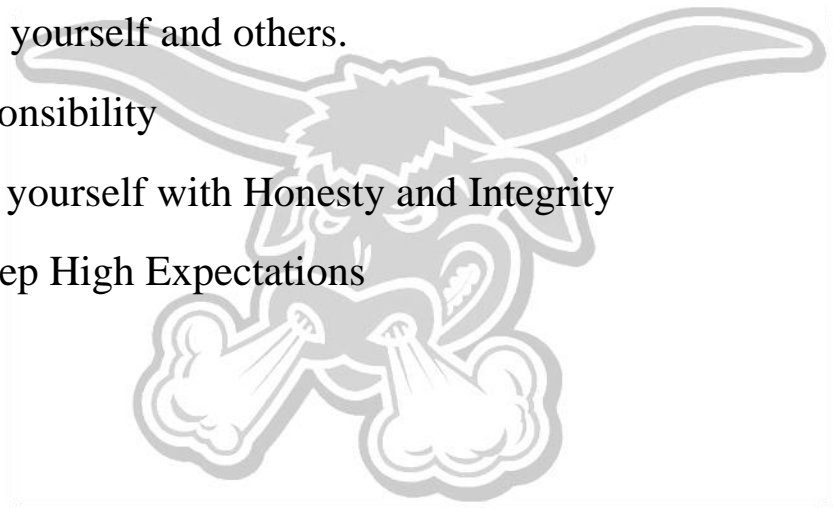
PACKER

Practice Respect for yourself and others.

Act with Responsibility

Conduct yourself with Honesty and Integrity

Keep High Expectations



“Be a member of the Pack”

EXPECTATION	Classroom, Library, Commons, Hallway, Study Hall, Office, Outside/Social Media
<u>Respect</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be considerate of others’ belongings • Take care of school property • <u>Treat everyone in a positive and polite manner, including online interactions</u> • Engage in active listening
<u>Responsibility</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be punctual, prepared, and ready to learn • Clean and organize our spaces • Use appropriate language, tone, and volume • <u>Be accountable for your actions, including online behavior</u>
<u>Relationships</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Be truthful</u> • Report unethical or unsafe behavior to appropriate resources • Honor people’s personal space, including social media • Cultivate positive interactions online
<u>Rigor</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Actively engage in and complete academic tasks</u> • Set positive, challenging goals leading to growth • Incorporate the Four Cs • Utilize authentic, credible online resources