

# Developmental Government

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## Course Description

This semester course introduces learners to perspectives on the United States government, its politics, and how it functions. Through guided lessons and modified activities, students will explore the roles and responsibilities of government institutions and develop an understanding of our nation's political processes and behaviors. Support will be provided with reading, writing, quizzes, and tests to ensure success. By the end of the course, students will have practical knowledge of how government works and the importance of being involved in our democracy.

## Course Goals

- Learn how the Constitution affects people's daily lives
- Understand the rights and protections given to individuals and groups
- Learn how power is shared in the U.S. government
- Identify the main parts of government and what they do
- Show understanding of lessons and unit assessments

## Units Covered

- *Unit 0:* Introduction of Rules and Procedures
- *Unit 1:* Early America and Government
- *Unit 2:* American Rights (Bill of Rights and Amendments)
- *Unit 3:* The Executive Branch
- *Unit 3a:* Executive Departments Project
- *Unit 4:* The Legislative Branch
- *Unit 5:* The Judicial Branch
- *Unit 6:* Checks and Balances
- *Unit 7:* Citizenship and American Foreign Policy
- *Unit 8:* Civics Test

## Grading

- 90 – 100% = A
- 80 – 89% = B
- 70 – 79% = C
- 60 – 69% = D
- 0 – 59% = F (*no credit earned*)

## Materials

- *Government Today* Book and Workbook
- Personal pens, pencils, and highlighters
- Organizational system for classwork (folders/notebooks/binder)
- Water Bottle (*highly recommended*)
- All other supplies used in class will be supplied by Ms. Steiner

## Schoology Information

- Students will need to access videos, assignments, links, etc. on Schoology.
- Students need to regularly check grades along with updates, deadlines, etc.

## Tardiness

- A tardy is arriving to class more than 20 minutes after the bell rings.
- Five unexcused tardies will result in a UV, which will receive detention.
- To avoid tardiness, enter class quickly and quietly.

## Leaving the Room

- Ask first to leave the room AND THEN submit an eHall Pass to be approved.
- Only one person will be allowed out of the room at a time.
- Bathroom and water fountain use is limited to independent and group work time.
- If you leave the room for more than 20 minutes, you will be marked UNVERIFIED.

## Course/Behavior Expectations

- Bring all materials to class each day
- Write your name on all work including tests and quizzes
- Try your best and put effort into your learning each day
- Respect yourself, your classmates, and teachers
- Use appropriate language at all times
- Keep your head up to show respect and stay engaged
- Music is allowed only during independent work time
- Plagiarized &/or cheating work will earn a **0**.

## Cell Phones and Personal Devices

- All devices (phones, smartwatches, laptops, etc.) must be **out of sight and not in use** during class.
- Devices **cannot be kept on you**; they must stay in a **closed backpack pocket**.
- Devices may **not be used or checked** during class.
- If you leave the room, your **backpack stays in the classroom**.

## Consequences

- **First Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the student at the end of the student's day
- **Second Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day
- **Third Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, behavior plan assigned to the student
- **Fourth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day ISS
- **Fifth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, 1 day OSS
- **Sixth Offense:** The device is brought to the Main Office, picked up by the parent/guardian at their earliest convenience, not to be returned to the student until the end of the student's day, transition to Virtual Program for the at least the remainder of the semester