



American Government Syllabus

Mr. Evan Deacon



"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of [person], the enhancement of [their] value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live."
— Maria Montessori (*Education and Peace*)

In this course, we will work together to understand how the government of the United States impacts the lives of the people living in it. This will include an in-depth look into how we, as individuals and as a group, can make an impact to progress our society so that it is representative of all people. Throughout the course, you will participate in discussions and assignments that will push your own way of thinking, develop your sense of self, and help give you the tools necessary to build your best future.

Course Units:

You will complete the following units throughout the year:

Unit	Focus Question
0	Why should I care about our government?
1	How was the United States government created?
2	How does our government function?
3	What are my rights?
4	How does fiscal policy affect our life?
5	How does monetary policy affect our life?
6	How does the United States manage all 50 states?
7	Review for the American Government AIR Test
	Lessons for Future Change

Class Routine:

Students will complete assignments through their unit work packet. All assignments will be found in the work packet (see next page for the structure of each unit). Each class will follow a similar process:

1. Students will enter the room and read Mr. Evan's Slide on the eBeam for directions.
2. Students will then immediately begin working on their Unit where they left off from the previous class.
3. Students will check in work with Mr. Evan when it is completed.
4. Mr. Evan will walk around to each table several time to check for understanding and engage in conversation around the material.

Mr. Evan believes that consistency and predictability can really help ensure student success. This is why the class routine and unit structure will be very similar every day.

Class Materials:

You will need the following materials for every class:

1. STWW (Something to Write With)
2. ½" Binder (Mr. Evan anticipates that this will stay in the classroom most of the time to ensure you do not lose your packet.)
3. Student Laptop

Unit Structure:

Each unit of study will follow the same process to help answer the focus question and master the American Government content standards:

Order	Procedure	Explanation of Procedure
1	Impression	Students will learn what the unit will be about. This could involve personal connections to the unit of study or help provide a focal point that will be discussed throughout the unit.
2	Vocabulary	Students will learn the important words and phrases that will be associated with the unit. This will most of the time be completed independently and will require practice.
3	Foundation	Students will learn the historical and present context for learning. This will oftentimes be in a lesson format given by Mr. Evan. Practice of the concepts will accompany each unit.
4	Quiz	Students will complete a summative assessment over the content that is taught in the foundation section of the unit. This will be completed in class.
5	Inquire	Students will independently or in a group, work towards answering the focus question. This will require a higher level of analysis and a strong understanding of the previous procedures.
6	Prepare	Students will prepare and/or practice for the summative assessment.
7	Summative Assessment	Students will demonstrate their understanding of the unit through the assessment. This will also be designed to help students become prepared for their American Government AIR test taken in the spring. All summative assessments will be completed in class.
8	Reflection	Students will reflect upon the content, assignments, and themselves at the end of every unit of study.

For each unit you will receive a packet of work that follows the unit structure. All of the assignments that are to be completed will be in the packet. The quiz and summative assessment will be separate from the packet and will be completed in class. A list of due dates will be posted on Mr. Evan's whiteboard and will also be posted on Google Classroom.

Assessments & Grading

For a detailed explanation of Mr. Evan's grading policy please reference the document, "Mr. Evan's Grading Policy".

Keeping Track of Progress:

FOCUS- Mr. Evan aims to update the gradebook every week. Depending on the amount of grading, this may be longer especially with summative assessments. With that said, Mr. Evan understands that FOCUS is a quick way to see how a student is progressing in class and will work to keep the most accurate grades for each student. Students and parents will be expected to check FOCUS frequently. *Please do not wait until the end of the quarter to check!* Time is limited at the end of the quarter and opportunities for students to improve grades cannot be guaranteed when they are last minute. Reference the grading policy to understand what the numbers in FOCUS mean.

Google Classroom - This platform will be used to help with organization and supplemental materials. While you will complete very few assignments on Google Classroom, there will be supplemental materials that will help students complete assignments. For example, Mr. Evan will post each lesson on Google Classroom to use in reference to help complete the unit of study.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point throughout the year, please email Mr. Evan at DeaconE@cpsboe.k12.oh.us

By signing, I have read the Syllabus and understand the structure of the class to ensure successful learning:

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____