Government Honors

M. Smith

**Pace High School Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to provide all students with quality instruction while stressing the importance of respecting others, sharing responsibility, and embracing the concept of lifelong learning.

**Course Description**

The grade 9-12 United States Government course consists of the following content area strands: Geography, Civics and Government. The primary content for the course pertains to the study of government institutions and political processes and their historical impact on American society. Content should include, but is not limited to, the functions and purpose of government, the function of the state, the constitutional framework, federalism, separation of powers, functions of the three branches of government at the local, state and national level, and the political decision-making process.

Honors/Advanced courses offer scaffolded learning opportunities for students to develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation in a more rigorous and reflective academic setting. Students are empowered to perform at higher levels as they engage in the following: analyzing historical documents and supplementary readings, working in the context of thematically categorized information, becoming proficient in note-taking, participating in Socratic seminars/discussions, emphasizing free-response and document-based writing, contrasting opposing viewpoints, solving problems, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate their skills through participation in a capstone and/or extended research-based paper/project (e.g., history fair, participatory citizenship project, mock congressional hearing, projects for competitive evaluation, investment portfolio contests, or other teacher-directed projects).

**Materials Needed:**

Students will be provided the textbook United States Government:Our Democracy by McGraw-Hill as the textbook for this course. Students will need to provide the following items to be brought to class on a daily basis.

1.\* 1 inch, 3-ring hard cover binder with inside pockets.\*

2. Notebook paper

3. Blue or Black ink pen

4. Pencil

**Grading and Assignments**

Grading scale:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 70-79

D: 60-69

F: 59 and below

Grades will be determined at the conclusion of each nine-week grading period by averaging all daily and test grades. At the end of each semester (two nine weeks grading periods), a comprehensive exam will be given to all students in each class. In determining the semester grade for each course, each nine week grading period grade will count 40% and the semester exam will count 20%.

**Technology**

students are to use school computers for school work only. Students are welcome to bring iPads/laptops etc. for note taking if they can efficiently keep up. Abuse of this privilege (i.e.: playing games on computer during class) will result in loss of privilege for that student. Cell phones may only be utilized during such times as the teacher deems necessary for research.

**Website**

This website is directed toward my AP students. However, you can still find valuable information here! https://smithmh6.wixsite.com/govt

**Classroom Rules/Procedures**

Class rules are put in place by the teacher for safe, efficient management of the classroom. All students are to follow these rules. Consequences are issued for those who do not follow the rules.

**Rules**

1. Be seated in desk and ready to begin when tardy bell rings.

2. Bring all needed materials to class daily.

3. Respect others and their property.

4. No food or drink in the classroom.

5. Obey all school rules.

6. Remain seated until dismissed.

**Daily Routine**

1. Upon arrival to class and being seated, student should check board for daily bell ringer.

2. Teacher will check attendance while students complete bell ringer or if no bell ringer, students will take out notebooks prepare for class to begin.

3. Papers are to be thrown away upon arrival or dismissal.

4. Classroom door will be closed with the tardy bell. All students are tardy to class once the door is closed.

5. Teacher will dismiss class. Class is not dismissed with the ringing of the bell.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism means utilizing incorporating, or paraphrasing any information that is not your own. Your homework and/or projects must be COMPLETELY original. Plagiarism is not tolerate by myself or College Board. Any plagiarized work will result in a “ 0” on the assignment , as well as phone call or Email home. A second offense will result in a referral to Administration.

**Make-up Work**

When a student is absent from school for school-sponsored activities or for an excused absence, the student shall be responsible for making arrangements with teachers for completing all work and assignments missed during the absence. All make-up work assigned shall be completed within three (3) days after the student returns to school unless given an extension of time by the teacher. Tests announced prior to the absence can be given on the student’s first day back to school, or at the discretion of the teacher. Assignments given prior to an absence that were due during the absence should be turned in the first day the student returns to school.

Zeroes will be given for class work and assignments missed during an unexcused absence and may not be made up for grading purposes unless an exception is made by the Principal.

**Late/Missed Assignments**

Late work, other than work not turned in due to excused absence or school closing, WILL NOT be accepted and student will receive a zero.

**Curriculum**

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| **Unit** | **Title** | **Topics** |
| 1 | **Foundations of American Democracy** | Constitutional Convention  Separation of Powers  Checks and Balances  Federalism |
| 2 | **Interactions Among Branches of Government** | Congress  Presidency  Judiciary  Bureaucracy  Making Public Policy |
| 3 | **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights** | First Amendment  Civil Rights |
| 4 | **American Political Ideologies and Beliefs** | Ideology  Political socialization |
| 5 | **Political Participation** | Political Parties  Elections  Interest Groups  Mass Media |