**Sharyland High School** 

**Government**

**Course Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

Teacher: Mr. J. Stockton

Room: 217 (200) Building Phone: (956) 580-5300 ext. 1421 shs.sharylandisd.org/faculty/Jstockton

This semester-long course will examine the democratic foundations, structures, and institutions of American government at local, state, and national levels. Students will study the political processes to gain understanding of the role of the individuals in the decision-making process of the American government. Students will also learn about the rights and responsibilities of the citizens of the United States. By investigating the American government through a variety of methods, including examining primary source documents, conducting research projects, class discussion, and written essays students will gain a deeper understanding of the function of the United States Government.

**Course Agenda/Outline:**

| **Units** | **Unit Overviews:** |
| --- | --- |
| **Unit 1:** Foundations of the United States Government | This introductory unit will begin familiarizing students with the most basic concepts and understandings of the United States Government. A special emphasis will be placed on the formation of the government and the process that was required to form the foundations of the country. |
| **Unit 2:** The Constitution and its Amendments | The second unit of study will focus on the principles and big ideas of the US Constitution. Through looking at the ideas of Checks and Balances, Federalism, Popular Sovereignty, Separation of Power, Republicanism, and Limited Governments the students will gain an understanding of the guiding principles of the United States Government. Special emphasis on the Amendments will give students an understanding of the types of protections and freedoms citizens have. |
| **Unit 3:** The Branches of Government | In Unit III students will be examining each of the three main branches of government and their specific functions. Special emphasis on the process of elections, how a bill becomes a law, and the idea of judicial review will connect the ideas of the functions of government to the six principles of the constitution. |
| **Unit 4:** The Political Process | Students will further the roles of citizen action and local government by examining specific issues related to the community and coming up with an action plan on applying the ideas of the preceding units to take political action. |

**Course Supplies:**

▪ CHROMEBOOK ▪ Pencils or Pens ▪ Notebook

Note: The vast majority of coursework will be completed online using Google Classroom. A day without your laptop or THE CHARGER should be considered a lost day.

Textbook (Provided): TBA

**Classroom Rules:**

▪ Arrive at class on time and be in your assigned seat when the bell rings.

▪ Be prepared to class with all your supplies and assignments. (Sharpen Your Pencils Before the Bell)

▪ Respect others and their property. (Clean Up After Yourself & Put Away Textbooks)

▪ Wait until the teacher dismisses you. The bell does not dismiss you.

▪ Raise your hand or wait politely to speak, if others are speaking.

**Classroom Procedures:**

▪ Class resources can be accessed off the course’s Google Classroom page. The Class Twitter, Remind, and important class announcements and due dates will all be displayed and available on Google Classroom.

▪ All chapter assignments (vocabulary, activities, handouts, etc.) are due the day after we finish the chapter. [Example: If we finish the notes for Chapter One on Thursday, anything we did for that chapter is due Friday at the latest.]

▪ Assignments can be turned in on paper in class by the end of the school day or online via Google Classroom by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

▪ Teacher permission and a hall pass are **required** to leave the classroom.

**Contact Information:**

Tutorials, conferences, and office hours are available after school or by appointment. Prior arrangements or appointments are preferred.

**Direct Extension:** (956) 580-5300 ext. 1421

**Course Grading Policy:**

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

| **Class Assignment Grade Weighs** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Daily Assignments**: *Handouts, Vocabulary, Study Island, Activities, Homework, Etc.* | **40 %** |
| **Tests, Essays, Projects, Notebook Checks** | **60 %** |
| **Course Total:** | **100 %** |

| **Grade Scale** | |
| --- | --- |
| **A** | **100-90** |
| **B** | **89-80** |
| **C** | **79-70** |
| **D** | **69-60** |
| **F** | **59-0** |

**The following district policies apply to retesting and redoing an assignment:**

▪ *“All students will be given up to three additional school days to redo a* ***FAILING MAJOR ASSIGNMENT,*** *but the grade will be no higher than a 70. The teacher has the option of assigning an alternative major assignment and may require additional tutoring, assignments, etc., as appropriate. The teacher will indicate in the gradebook that the assignment was redone.* ***This provision does NOT apply to Pre-AP, Dual Enrollment (taught by Sharyland ISD teachers), or AP students.****”*

▪ *“All students will be given three additional days ( two days for Pre-AP, AP, and DE taught by SISD teachers) to make up* ***LATE MAJOR ASSIGNMENT*** *and may be required additional tutoring, assignments, etc., as appropriate (with a progressive grade penalty of 10 points per day, 15 points per day for Pre-AP/AP/Dual Enrollment, taught by Sharyland ISD teachers).* ***Pre-AP/AP/Dual Enrollment (taught by Sharyland ISD teachers) students will NOT be allowed to submit late minor work****.”*

**Attendance/Make-Up Work:**

Daily class attendance is vital to ensuring class success. The following district guidelines apply for make-up work when a student is absent:

▪ *“Students with an* ***EXCUSED ABSENCE*** *from school (including off-campus suspension) will have the opportunity to make up missed work at the rate of one day for one day missed, with a maximum of five days. Students will receive a zero for any major or minor assignment not made up within the allotted time.”*

▪ *“Students with an* ***UNEXCUSED ABSENCE*** *may not make up missed work; however, if the unexcused absence is determined to be caused by an extenuating circumstance, makeup work may be allowed. The grade for the makeup work will be no higher than a 70.”*

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of our school. ***“No student shall cheat or copy the work of another. Plagiarism, the use of another person’s original ideas or writings as one’s own without giving credit to the true author, will be considered cheating, and the student will be subject to academic discipline that may include loss of credit for the work in question.”***