

US Government 12 Course Syllabus
Instructor: Sara Lyons
2018-2019

Instructor: Sara Lyons
Email: slyons@isd271.org

Course Description

This course expands on the student's Civics and American History education. It focuses on how the federal government works, and what are the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will review the basic principles and foundations of American Government. This course will also prepare students to be active participants in their government and society by requiring them to observe a government or civic meeting, or write a letter to their US Representative or Senator(s), or to participate in a community service activity. In numerous activities, students will analyze their role in a democratic society. They will examine how governmental issues are observable in current events, thus making strong connections between what is studied in class and what is happening in the world outside the classroom.

Course Objectives:

A range of assigned readings, class activities, and assignments have been planned to assist in achieving the identified purposes of the course. It is expected that acceptable performance on all of the organized course activities will lead to satisfaction of the following standards:

During this course you will be working on the content standards embedded throughout the course material. Students will demonstrate they are able to:

- A) examine the foundational documents, including the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights relating to citizen rights and responsibilities;
- B) examine persisting issues involving rights, roles, and status of individuals in relation to the general welfare of society;
- C) analyze how citizens can affect public policy; and
- D) observe, analyze, and interact with an actual or simulated governmental process.

Required Readings

- *United States Government: Principles in Action* by Fraga, Holt McDougal, 2012.
- Various other primary and secondary source documents.

Course Overview

- Welcome to US Government introductory tasks
- Unit 1: Foundations of American Government
- Unit 2: American Government Structure & Principles
- Unit 3: Branches of Government & Institutions
- Unit 4: Political Process, Parties & Participation

- ☐ Unit 5: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- ☐ Unit 6: Public Policy Project

Formative Assessments

Students’ progress will be evaluated with formative assessments throughout the course. These assessments will include assignments, quizzes, class activities, vocabulary activities, and discussion.

Summative Assessments

Students’ progress will be evaluated with summative assessments throughout the course. These assessments will include short answer questions, multiple-choice questions, projects, and a cumulative final exam.

Recommended Supplies	Contact Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● pocket folder & spiral notebook -OR- ● 3-ring binder with filler paper ● Writing utensil <p>See me if the cost of supplies is prohibitive.</p>	<p>Sara Lyons Email is the best way to contact me. slyons@isd271.org 952-681-5166 (only <u>before</u> or <u>after</u> school)</p>

Course Calendar Access

1. **Board:** The agenda & homework schedule for the current week will be posted on the board.
2. **Moodle:** The class Moodle page will have a live-feed to the Google course calendar for this course. It is the main place to check for due dates and the reading calendar.
3. **HUB:** The Kennedy website HUB will have a link to your Google course calendar, including due dates for homework and assessments.

Need Extra Help?

Please sign up for Academic Seminar on the classroom door if you need to take or revise an assessment or would like extra help. This needs to be done by the Friday of the week prior to Seminar. If you are still available in the system, I will sign you up for my seminar. Additionally, you can make an appointment for after school help. Please speak to me for availability.

Monitoring your Progress

You can access your grade at any time on Infinite Campus.

Grading Standards

A	94%	C	74%
A-	90%	C-	70%
B+	87%	D+	67%

B	84%	D	64%
B-	80%	D-	60%
C+	77%	F	below 60

Evaluation Policies & Procedures

The Purpose

The goal of the following policies is to reinforce productive work habits in students, such as diligence, perseverance, timeliness, consistency, quality work, and time-management. The policies will encourage students to be prepared for their unit tests on the initial test day, while allowing flexibility for students to improve their scores on two assessments each trimester. Young adults need the room to make a mistake or have a bad day now and then, but not the leniency to do so with regularity. The hope is that the policies below will help students cultivate the positive habits and momentum necessary to be successful in high school, college, and the workplace.

Formative Work (20% category)

- Formative work is practice designed to help students master the skills and content of the course. Revisions or resubmissions of formative work will **not** be accepted for grading or scoring purposes.
- Formative work will be accepted late, but with a **20% penalty**. A final deadline for all late work will be announced near the end of the trimester. After the final formative deadline, no late formatives will be accepted.

Summative Exams (80% category)

- If a student is **verified absent** on a test day, s/he will have **one week** in which to make-up the missed test. Arrangements need to be made with your instructor within that window. Exceptions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. Missing tests will be completed after school or during Academic Seminar. Students who wait to make-up the test until **after** the one-week timeframe will **not** be eligible for a retake on that assessment.
- If a student is **unverified absent** on a test day, the student will be **ineligible for a retake** on that assessment. The student will also have **one week** in which to make-up the missed test.
- Students will be **allowed TWO retake opportunities** per trimester. Students may retake one summative assessment of their choice on a set Retake Day during class time at mid-trimester. Additionally, they will be allowed a second retake of an assessment of their choice from the second half of the trimester on a set Retake Day during class time just prior to the Final Exam. Students may also elect **not** to retake an assessment on these days. These students will be given work time.

- Students are expected to put in additional study time prior to retaking any assessment. Students **must complete (a) any missing formative work and (b) the Test Study Guide** for that test prior to their retake. If the formative work and/or the Test Study Guide are not completed *prior* the retake time, the student will **not be eligible for a retake** on that assessment.
- Students with **late formative work** for that unit may earn **up to 80% on the retake** and no higher. Students who completed their formative work on time are eligible for **up to 100%** on the retake.
- Missing formative work must be **at least 80% completed** to be considered “**done**” for retake purposes.
- Students who are verified absent on the official retake day will need to make arrangements with the instructor to complete their retake within **one week** of the original retake day. If they do not, they will have forfeited their retake opportunity.
- If a student is **unverified absent** on a retake day, the student will **not be allowed to retake** that assessment.
- After a retake, the **higher** of the two test scores will be used for the grade book.
- There will be no retakes on Final Exams. □

Summative Projects & Papers (80% category)

- If a student does complete a summative project or paper by the due date, it will be marked **late** and a **10% late penalty** will be applied. If a student is **unverified absent** on a project or paper due date, the **10% late penalty** will also be applied. Students who are **verified absent on a summative due date** should turn in their project or paper **on the first day they return to class** to avoid the late penalty. Exceptions will be granted for extenuating circumstances.
- There will be no retakes or revisions on Free-Response Question assessments.

The Kennedy Academic Dishonesty Policy

An act of academic dishonesty is a behavioral infraction and shall be treated as such. All offenses are cumulative for all courses over the high school academic career. If the behavior warrants it, the administration may increase the level of consequences based on the facts and the violations of other policies. The administration will use the following to establish the consequence for the violation. If the student already has three violations during his/her academic career, the administration will use the consequences in the 3rd offense category and may increase them. Students will not be allowed to retake a final exam, regardless of the offense.

The full Kennedy Academic Dishonesty Policy is online in the Student Handbook and on my website.