First Semester2018 **US Government** Mr. Goldberg/Mr. Petrous

**INTRODUCTION**

*United States Government* is a one-semester required course for graduation. The goal of this class is to foster the development of civic competence and civic participation for all students.  In this course, students use the knowledge and analytical thinking skills learned in the United States History courses to focus on the origins, structure, and functions of government at all levels in the nation.  Emphasis is placed on intellectual factors that influenced the development of a republic based on the rule of law, freedom of opportunity, individual liberty, and representative democracy.  The course also includes a detailed study of the Constitution of the United States and its provisions. Students go beyond the acquisition of facts to develop skills for collection, in-depth analysis, and interpretation of information important to the study of government.  Students in this class will engage in analysis of primary sources, including those specific to the founding of the United States, speeches, landmark Supreme Court cases, and relevant political commentaries.

**THINGS YOU’LL NEED**:

*You will be provided with:*

1. A textbook entitled: *Magruder’s American Government.* Please bring to class **daily** unless told otherwise.
2. A unit packet (1 for each unit). The packet will be hole-punched. You must acquire a 3-ring binder or other effective method of keeping your binder in order. It is not possible to do well on the unit tests if you do not complete your unit packet and keep it in order.

***YOU*** *will need to bring to class daily:*

1. Your textbook (unless told otherwise)
2. Your unit packet
3. A writing utensil.
4. Your planner

**UNITS OF STUDY and Exam Dates**

1. Unit 1: Foundations of American Government; ***Friday, October 5th***
2. Unit 2: Limited Government; ***Thursday, October 25th***
3. Unit 3: The Legislative Branch and Politics; ***Friday, November 16th***
4. Unit 4: The Executive Branch and World Affairs; ***Tuesday, December 18th***
5. Unit 5 and Final: The Judicial Branch and Individual Rights; The material for this unit will be combined into the final exam. Exam date will follow the BHS final exam schedule.

**GRADING**

All assignments for the course will be entered in the grade book in one or two places: Assessments or Classwork. All tests, quizzes, and projects that we may do will be entered as *assessments* and will count as 75% of your overall term grade. There may be unannounced homework quizzes which will be reflected in the assessment category. All other activities like classwork and homework will be entered as *classwork* and will count as 25% of your overall term grade. Your term grade will count as 80% of your overall final grade for the semester, and your final exam will count as 20%. Below is the Berkley High School grading scale:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  A | 100 | 93.5 |
|  A- | 93.49 | 89.5 |
|  B+ | 89.49 | 86.5 |
|  B | 86.49 | 82.5 |
|  B- | 82.49 | 79.5 |
|  C+ | 79.49 | 76.5 |
|  C | 76.49 | 72.5 |
|  C- | 72.49 | 69.5 |
|  D+ | 69.49 | 66.5 |
|  D | 66.49 | 62.5 |
|  D- | 62.49 | 59.5 |
|  E | 59.49 | 0 |

**TARDY POLICY**

The Berkley High School tardy/attendance policy will be closely observed. In order to be considered “on time,” you must be **in my classroom at the time the bell rings**. When it does ring, get to your seat immediately so that we can begin.

**LAVATORY BREAKS**

No passes to the lavatory are given during lecture or instructional time, but I may sign your planner to go at other times. Students who are given a pass to the lavatory are to go directly to the lavatory at the end of this hallway and to no other location. Students are to return directly to class from this lavatory afterwards. Students who abuse this privilege will lose it.

**LATE/MISSING WORK**

Any assignments that are not complete when the bell rings on the day that they are due will be considered late when they are eventually turned in. Students who work on their homework for the day once the bell has rung will be told to put the assignment away. It will be considered late when it is eventually turned in. Any homework assignment that is not completed when it is due will automatically result in a short lunch detention. The details of this policy are spelled out below. Late assignments are accepted for ½ credit up to the day of the current unit exam. Students who have had an ***excused absence*** need to request their missing work upon returning to school. Credit for ***unexcused absences*** may not be granted, including credit for tests or quizzes. Students should be prepared to take any missed test or quiz immediately upon returning to school unless I grant you an extension. ***It is the student’s responsibilities to stay informed of what occurred in class on days that they were absent.***

**HOMEWORK DETENTIONS**

If a student does not have his or her homework completed when the bell rings on the day that it is due:
1. The student will be assigned a short detention in my room from 12:10 to 12:20

2. If the student fails to serve this detention, the student will be assigned a longer detention from 12:10 to 12:30

3. If the student fails to serve this detention, the student will be assigned a longer detention from 12:10 to 12:40, and a parent and an administrator will be informed.

4. If the student fails to serve this detention, the student will be referred to an administrator.

Detentions assigned for discipline will follow a similar procedure.

**CHEATING**

Students in class are expected to complete and turn in their own work. This applies to every aspect of class: homework, in-class assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, etc. If, at any time, a student copies any information on an assignment from another student, both students will receive permanent zeros on the assignment and will be assigned a lunch detention. Do not copy another student's work, and do not allow another student to copy your work. Students who are suspected of turning in unoriginal work from home may receive a zero, a referral to an administrator, and/or a phone call to the parent/guardian. Severe cases of intellectual theft may result in failure of the class.

**A FEW SIMPLE RULES………..**

1.) Respect. We all deserve it, so please respect each other, adults in the room, and yourself. When I am talking or a student is talking, please do not talk over that person. Whoever has the floor has the floor. 2.) When I ask for your attention to start class, get quite immediately so that I can begin and remain seated. Class time is scarce. 3.) Pop or food is strictly prohibited from class. Water is always acceptable. 4.) School rules, as outlined in the student agenda, will always be observed. This includes the school dress code, and the school attendance/tardy policy.

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

Our objective is to help you achieve your full potential. If you have concerns, or need help succeeding in class, please contact your teacher. Mr. Goldberg can be reached by e-mail at: igoldberg@berkleyschools.org, or phone at 248-837-8109. Mr. Petrous can be reached by email at: gpetrous@berkleyschools.org, or phone at 248-837-8976