

American Government/Civics Syllabus(Fall 2018)
Summit Academy of Greater Louisville
Ms. Keeley T. Finn

Course Goal: The American Government/Civics Course is designed to equip students with a basic understanding of the systems of government in the USA, their purposes and formations, as well as an overview of the branches of government. Our topics will include: The beginnings of American government, The creation of American Government, The Constitution and basic rights granted to citizens, branches of government, the president’s cabinet, state and local government, political parties, citizenship, american economics, foreign policy and trade, and governments of the world and international law. The goal of this course is to provide you with information to guide you as an American Citizen going into the adu. This course will also pose projects related to American Government and Civic involvement, and will ask students to evaluate said problems, and to pose solutions to said problems.

Text and Resources:

Text: AGS United State Government, 2005, American Guidance Service, Inc.
 Videos: Nova, America the Story of Us, Crash Course with Craig Benzine, Brainpop, CNN Student News
 Online Resources: National Library of Congress, NewsELA, whitehouse.gov (The Official White House Website), House.gov (The Official Website of Congress), supremecourt.gov (The Official Website of the Supreme Court), Google Classroom, Google Documents, Google Slides
 Paper Resources (Will Be Provided by the Teacher): The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Courier Journal

Units	Chapters & Pages	Projects and Activities	Video	Duration
Unit 1 Beginnings of American Government	Chapter 1 Pp. 1-21	*Career Interest Inventory *School Rules Socratic Seminar *Research links between the ancient Roman Republic and US History	Crash Course: Why Study Government ? America The	2 weeks

		<p>and Government and Create a Poster Presentation *Create a flowchart showing how limiting monarch power resulted in additional power for the nobles and the common people *Foreign Country Customs Research With Poster Presentation *Research Mexican Independence from Spain *Selected Reading and Reader Response Questions for Homework *Test Review in Class *Take Test</p>	<p>Story of Us: Chapter 1 Brain Pop- Roman Government CNN Student News</p>	
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<p>Unit 2 Creation of American Government</p>	<p>Chapter 2 Pp. 22-43</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *NewsELA- Two Different Democracies *Class Debate- Was meeting in secret a good idea for the Constitutional Convention? *Popular Sovereignty Class Discussion and homework assignment *Read page 32-33 and work in pairs to list the powers of each branch of government *Online- Read the first 10 amendments to the constitution and summarize them in your own words *Editorial or Opinion piece quest and class sharing *Test Review in Class *Exam 	<p>Brain Pop- Bill of Rights With Quiz</p> <p>America The Story of Us Chapter 2</p> <p>Crash Course- Separation of Powers</p> <p>CNN Student News</p>	<p>2 weeks</p>
<p>Unit 3 A Look at the Constitution</p>	<p>Chapter 3 Pp. 46-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Page 45-49- Read and Review in Class and Practice Note taking *Review Questions in class *Phases of Creating an Amendment Class Activity *Presidential Oath of Office Read Aloud and Think Aloud *Bill of Rights Flashcards and Kahoot Game *Student Research- Permits and Regulations 	<p>Brainpop: The Constitution</p> <p>Brainpop: The Bill of Rights</p> <p>Crash Course- Women's Suffrage</p> <p>*CNN Student</p>	<p>3 weeks</p>

		<p>for Parades, Demonstrations and Other Public Gatherings & Class Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Presentation- Other Nations Constitution and Human Rights *Violations of Human Rights Court Cases Role Play *Police Officer Guest Speaker *Electoral College Activity *Test Review in Class *Final Exam 	News	
Unit 4 The Legislative Branch	Pp. 71-89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jigsaw Civil Rights Act Activity *Case Study of the Election of 1800 *Use a calendar to determine when voting occurs and when a representative's term is ended *Practice Writing an Outline as a class pp.76-77 *How a Bill Becomes a Law Role-Play *Watch CNN Student News, and Check the Congressional Record- Have Students Take Notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Crash Course- How a Bill Becomes a Law *C-SPAN *CNN Student News 	2 weeks
Unit 5 The Executive Branch	Pp. 91-111	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Hands on Presidential Seal Activity *Discussion of Reasons for 3 Constitutional Qualifications for Presidential Candidates *Students will write a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *America The Story of Us *Brain Pop Executive Branch *Crash 	3 weeks

		<p>paragraph in their own words to describe how a president is elected. Students will then Record themselves reading the paragraph and play it back.</p> <p>*Borrowing from the Fed interest Activity</p> <p>*Timeline creation of events between Harrison's Sudden Death and Nixon's Resignation</p> <p>*Talk about issues of National and International Security</p> <p>*CIA Research Project</p> <p>*Class Review</p> <p>*Test</p>	<p>Course-Executive Branch</p> <p>*The Post</p>	
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Student Grades are comprised of:

Student Engagement (20%)

- 5% Effort / Teamwork/ Warm Ups
- 15% Reading/Note Taking/Worksheets/

Student Progression (30%)

- 15% In Class Projects/Assignments
- 15% Reading Work/News Responses

Student Mastery (50%)

- 30% Test Grades
- 25% Projects/Presentations

The Grading Scale Will Used Will Be:

- 90-100= A
- 80-90= B
- 70-80= C
- 60-70= D
- 59 and below= F

Class Rules and Expectations:

Classroom Discipline will be consistent with Summit Academy handbook rules for student conduct, and the Restorative Practice Initiative. Classroom conduct will be driven by Discipline with Dignity and each student will be expected to demonstrate high school maturity including, but not limited to: Controlled language, proper hygiene, expecting and giving respect to teachers, and equipment, and completion of assigned work to the best of your ability.

Cell Phone Policy

Students must leave their cell phones in their lockers and may not bring the cell phone to class unless instructed to by the teacher to complete classwork

Late Work Policy

I will give all of my students an opportunity to look at their grade online. They may access their grades whenever they wish, and they will also receive a mid-trimester print out of their grade. It is the student's responsibility to review this and submit all late work to me. Students must ask within 3 days of a missing assignment to turn in the assignment late. After 3 days, the late work will not be accepted.

Gamified Classroom

My Classes will participate in Classcraft, a classroom tool that increases student engagement, teamwork, and motivation, which students may keep track of using the Classcraft app on their cell phones (note: cell phones may not be brought to class, students should keep track of the class craft game on their downtime). Students will also receive a weekly reward based on a points system between all of my classes. Each week one class will win doughnuts or ice cream sandwiches on Friday.