



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SYLLABUS

*Fall Semester: Aug. 8-Dec.22, 2016

*Spring Semester: Jan. 9-May 25, 2017

TEACHERS:

Ms. Brownthwaite	brownthwaite@fultonschools.org	Room 307
Mr. James	jamescm@fultonschools.org	Room 333
Mr. MacDonald	macdonald@fultonschools.org	Room 334
Ms. Zavlanos	zavlanoss@fultonschools.org	Room 306

Text: *United States Government: Democracy in Action* Glencoe McGraw Hill ©2006 Price (about) \$70.00

Course Description: This course is an overview of the American Political system and its three branches of government as prescribed in the Georgia Performance Standards. State and local government will be studied—as well as criminal justice, civic responsibility and current events.

Agenda

Unit 1	Foundations of American Government (Chapter 1, 2 & 25)
Unit 2	The United States Constitution (Chapter 3-4)
Unit 3	Legislative Branch (Chapter 5, 6 & 7)
Unit 4	Executive Branch (Chapter 8, 9 and 10)
Unit 5	Judicial Branch (Chapters 11-15)
Unit 6	Civic Responsibility (Chapter 16-18)
Unit 7	State and Local Government (Chapters 23-24)

TESTING DATES PER UNIT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
PLEASE ACCESS EDMODO & CLASSROOM CALENDARS FOR SPECIFICS!

<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
Unit 1 – August 23 (Tuesday)	Unit 1- January 25 (Wednesday)
Unit 2 – September 13 (Tuesday)	Unit 2 – February 14 (Tuesday)
Unit 3 – October 7 (Wednesday)	Unit 3 – March 17 (Friday)
Unit 4 – November 2 (Wednesday)	Unit 4 – March 30 (Thursday)
Unit 6 – *Combined Test with Unit 7 on Nov. 17 (Thursday)	Unit 5 – May 2 (Tuesday)
Unit 7 – *Combined Test with Unit 6 on Nov. 17	Unit 6 – *Combined Test with Unit 7 May 17 (Wednesday)
Unit 5 – December 14 (Wednesday)	Unit 7 – *Combined Test with Unit 6 May 17

Rules:

1. **Be On Time** to class each day.
 2. **Be Prepared** by having all required materials and all completed work.
 3. **Be Focused** on what is happening in our class.
 4. **Be Respectful** of your peers, teacher and self. As comments, ideas and opinions are offered please be courteous in your feedback.
 5. **Be Ready** to learn and contribute! This is **your** class, so help make it the best!
- Suggestions and opinions are always welcome and appreciated. Please refer to the student handbook for other school policies and rules*



Tardy Policy: Students are expected to be in class and ready to begin work when the tardy bell sounds. Students arriving tardy to 1st period must check in with the Attendance Office and then report to class. Please refer to the student handbook for the details & consequences of the NHS tardy policy.

Late Work Policy: Students will be required to submit work on the due date. If a student has an **excused** absence, that student may make up the work with no penalty, provided that the student brings in an excuse-note from the office upon returning to class. **It is the student's responsibility to approach the teacher to obtain all work missed for an excused absence.** Students with an excused absence will receive an extension on a due date equal to the number of days missed. **However, if you are absent the day before a quiz or test you will still be expected to take the test with the class on its assigned day.** Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a zero grade. **Also, if a trend of continuous absences is noted on days of major assignments (tests, quizzes, etc), it is at the teacher's discretion to offer an alternative assessment.**

If a student submits an assignment late, the penalty is as follows:

For assignments turned in 1 day late, a 30% reduction in the final score will be applied.

For assignments turned in 2 or more days late, a 50% reduction in the final score will be applied.

While this penalty is stiff, it is still absolutely in the student's best interest to turn in assignments late, rather than not at all. Half-credit is drastically better than a 0 (which can ruin a course average). Students ARE NOT eligible for recovery unless they have submitted all class assignments. I accept late work at any time until ten (10) days before the end of the semester. Please refer to the handbook for more details on this policy.

Assessments: Every 6 weeks a progress report will be distributed to each student. Course grades will be determined by the following scale. Grades can be accessed through Home Access Center (HAC).

Category	% of Grade
Test	35
Classwork/Homework	15
Quiz	15
Project	15
Final	20

Course Requirements: A pen/pencil and binder with dividers and paper are needed for class each day. Directions to organize your binder will be given in class. Material accumulated in binder notebooks will count for a grade.

Recovery Policy:

Recovery is for students who, despite a conscientious effort and communication with their teachers, have failed to demonstrate satisfactory understanding of course standards. It is not for the student who has been failing for many weeks and then wishes to recover during the final days of the course. **Opportunities for students to recover from a 74 or below cumulative average will be provided when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements.** Students who have not attempted to complete all course requirements are not eligible for recovery.

Students may initiate recovery on major assessments starting with the second major assessment of the semester (or after the first 6-weeks grading period) as long as they have made a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Unexcused absences may prevent this opportunity.

So that students stay focused on the content at hand and don't become overwhelmed and fall too far behind, they must initiate recovery on a major assessment within five school days of being informed of the grade on that assessment. Recovery work must be completed within ten school days prior to the end of the semester. The nature and type of recovery assignment is given at the discretion of the teacher.

Grading guidelines for recovery assignments will vary by department. It is the responsibility of the student to fully understand the grading guidelines/highest possible score for completed recovery work.

Honor Code: **Cheating of any nature will not be tolerated in this classroom.** This includes, but is not limited to, copying another's work, consulting sources (such as a print source or talking to other people about the work). While completing individual work, plagiarism of any kind (including un-cited and loosely rephrased material from any media source) is not allowed.

Unless noted by the teacher **ALL** work completed for this course is considered an individual **assignment**. Copying other students' work (HW, CW, tests, etc) and working on assignments (inside or outside of class) with other students will be considered a violation of the honor code. Those who choose to violate this code will receive a zero for the assignment and have notice placed in their disciplinary file. Major writing assignments may be required for submission at turnitin.com at the teacher's discretion. The Honor Code is taken very seriously at Northview. Please read the student handbook carefully for full understanding of this code.

