

Syllabus for Government 2018-2019

Mr. McDonald 12th Grade 12H

Course Description

American government is the focus of this course, how it works and the responsibilities of the students to this government. Other forms of governments will be studied to help the student better understand how the Founding Fathers created America's government. Current events will be discussed regularly and related to politics past and present. The Constitution will be dissected and its principles and application debated.

Lively discussions on current issues will open up the possibility of how students can make a difference and become an informed voter.

Prerequisites

One year of U.S. History where students studied the making of a new nation after the American Revolution.

Major Topics

- How the government was formed and what we borrowed from the Greeks, Romans, and British as well as other forms of governments with their strengths and weaknesses.
- The history of political parties, their make-up and present day functions, and voting procedures.
- Current news and different sides to political issues so that students can learn to think for themselves.
- Media bias and how to filter information will be looked at as well as where to go to get reliable facts.
- The role Christian principles played in the making of our government.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

- Psalm 33:12

Projects and Papers

- Creating a compact for the class using the Mayflower Compact as an example
- Research on a political issue and debate as well as setting up a political party in small groups
- Summarizing a news show on T.V. or the radio
- Two group projects on summarizing the U.S. Constitution and setting up a government
- Conducting a presidential debate on political issues with an audience that grades them
- Researching two political issues, with fact finding to support their stand

Additional Materials

Students will be asked to bring in news articles about government related topics from newspapers and the internet.

Class Rules

There will be several lively debates and discussions. Students will be asked to respect the guidelines and opposing opinions. Participation may be graded and students will be called upon for their opinion. Come prepared to learn and respect all other students and staff. Note taking will be important.

Grading

The standard weight of 50% for tests, 35% for quizzes and minor projects, and 15% for homework/daily assignments.