

US Government Syllabus

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Google Classroom: sczb4yx

Room: B4-212
Tutoring: 5th Period or
Monday 4-5 (*by request*)
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Course Description:

This Government course delves into the foundational principles and beliefs underpinning the United States' establishment, examining government structures, functions, and powers at all levels.

Serving as the culmination of civic education, students explore historical political ideas and the U.S. Constitution's significance, critically analyze political influence, evaluate individual participation in democracy, and scrutinize constitutional rights. The course is one-semester and is either preceded or succeeded by a one-semester economics course.

Course Materials

Students are required to provide a pencil and a means of storing any paper notes or assignments (such as a binder or folder).

The course will use an official textbook, Cultural Landscape, The: An Introduction to Human Geography 13th Edition, and a recommended study book, Amsco Advanced Placement Human Geography, 1st edition. The textbook is available digitally through webdesk on the "(Textbook) PISD ConnectED" app.

This is a content rich course; additional resources used in this course include news articles/current events, short reading passages, maps and graphs, and videos.

Grading Policies

Major Grades (60%)	Exams, Projects, and most multi-day assignments
Minor Grades (40%)	Exit-Tickets, daily homework, in-class activities, warm-ups, and general participation. Quizzes are worth two daily grades.

Late Work

Late work will be eligible for no higher than 70%. Missing assignments will be marked as "Z" in the gradebook, which is graded as a 0%.

Students with excused absences may submit assignments within an equivalent number of days without incurring penalties.

Course Assessments

Students will be formally assessed at the end of each unit through a multiple-choice exam of approximately 40 questions. They will also be assessed through other means throughout the unit.

Note-Taking

Slideshows and other materials will be uploaded on Google Classroom by the end of the day in which they were covered in class. As the notes can be completed remotely, absent students will still be considered responsible for any notes they've missed.

Students are encouraged to take their own additional notes on any material covered in class. Quizzes and most assignments are fully open-notes.

Make-Up and Test Corrections

Students are expected to complete any assignments they missed when having an excused absence. Students who score under 70% on an exam or quiz will have one week from the date the exam was returned to make test-corrections during tutoring or spare class time. Test corrections may raise a grade up to 70%.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be in your seat with the appropriate paper and supplies by the bell.
2. Show respect for your teacher and classmates by speaking politely.
3. Behave so that everyone feels welcome to express themselves and ask questions.
4. Homework is due *when you arrive at class*.
5. Demonstrate respect for our custodians by disposing of trash and cleaning up the space around your desk at the end of every class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined by PISD as "cheating or copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination." This includes using devices to search for answers on quizzes, exams, or any assignments in which the student is instructed not to do so.

Consequences for violating the policy will involve a 0 on the assignment. Classwork will not be eligible for a second attempt. Students may attempt an alternate version of a quiz or test during tutoring/assigned make-up time for no higher than a 70.

Electronic Device Usage

As government students are generally 17-18, they will be afforded a sense of discretion in regards to electronics usage. Generally, devices will not be collected, but if their repeated use becomes a distraction, students may be asked to place them in a visible but less-accessible place, such as the teacher's desk or a wall hanger. If they refuse, the student will be asked to speak with their subschool principal regarding the PISD Student Code of Conduct Technology Usage Agreement.

Please understand your student may not have access to their phone during class. **If you expect a special need to contact them, please either email/message the teacher or call the school at (469) 752-9000**

Course Outline and Anticipated Exam Dates

The course is divided into 7 units. A short summary of each unit and *anticipated* readings and exam dates are listed below.

Note that Unit 6 and 7 will be a combined exam. Additional details regarding the final exam will be provided by December 1st.

Unit Description	Anticipated Unit Exam Dates
Unit 1 - Foundations of Government <i>Philosophy and founding documents of the United States</i>	23 August
Unit 2 - Constitution and Federalism <i>Separation of powers; checks and balances; federalism</i>	14 September
Unit 3 - Political Parties and Elections <i>Political spectrum; parties, platforms, interest groups; electoral college</i>	03 October
Unit 4 - Legislative Branch <i>Powers of House and Senate; bicameralism; legislative process</i>	2 November
Unit 5 - Executive Branch and Bureaucracy <i>Powers of the president; organization of executive bureaucracy; foreign policy</i>	28 November
Unit 6 - Judicial Branch <i>Federal court system; landmark court cases; powers of the judiciary</i>	12 December
Unit 7 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights <i>Constitutional protections; Bill of Rights; due process, privacy, and protections against search and seizure</i>	12 December