

Government 2011-2012

Course Syllabus

Prepared by: Ms. Helsel

I. Course description

This course is designed to give students a background in general Democratic principles, civic responsibility, civil rights, as well as general economic principles and basic financial responsibility. Students will acquire this knowledge through bookwork, lecture, group work, projects, research papers, computer productions, and guest speakers. Internet research will be used in a number of ways as we explore different topics in this class.

II. Classroom Policies

Attendance: School Policy requires that student absences be limited to **18** per year unless excused by a **medical** or **court** document that verifies the absence for that day. Any student who exceeds 18 days without such verification will be subject to **loss of credit** in the course.

An **unexcused** (with out medical, court or parent/guardian note) absence will result in a **zero** for any work completed on that day.

Tardy: After your **second** tardy to class, you will be subject to loss of points based on teacher discretion for each assignment.

Make-up Work: Make up work will be allowed based on school policy, one day for each day of absence.

Grades: Grading will be done on a point system with grades averaged according to the school-grading policy. The grading scale is as follows.

92 – 100 A

83 – 91 B

74 – 82 C

66 – 73 D

0 – 65 F

Rules: Follow all class rules as distributed by the teacher and stated in the student handbook of the Trumbull Career and Technical Center

Government Classroom Rules 2011-2012

1. **Students need the following items for use in class:**
 - a. Three ring loose leaf notebook with paper (2 inch minimum)
 - b. Pencils/pens
 - c. Text book with cover on it
 - Students are expected to bring these items with them to class every day. Students will NOT be permitted to go to their lockers to get supplies.
2. Periodically, students will be excused from class to attend vocational meetings, field trips, etc. Students will be excused on the following conditions:
 - a. Students notify teacher as soon as the field trip is scheduled.
 - b. This is confirmed by appearing on the weekly schedule
 - c. Assignments or tests must be made up prior to the excused absence unless otherwise stated by teacher.
 - Students must understand their presence is excused NOT the work. If you are missing class due to a club meeting your assignment **MUST** be turned in that day.
3. Homework is to be turned in when called for to receive full credit. Late work will be accepted at teacher's discretion for reduced credit.
4. **No eating or drinking will be permitted in class. DO NOT bring your lunch items with you to class, dispose of them before you get to the room or you will be sent to the cafeteria to through them away.** After a warning, a detention will be given. Gum chewing is permitted as long as good manners prevail.
5. If text books or handouts are lost or stolen it is the students' responsibility to replace them or make compensation for their loss.
6. **Sleeping is not permitted in class.** After a warning a detention will be given.
7. **NO** coats, sweatshirts, head gear, beepers, headsets, cell phones, electronic devices, etc. are permitted in class.
8. **Program shirts must be completely visible at all times.** Program shirts can not be covered in any way by other clothing.
9. Students are expected to remain seated until teacher dismisses the class. **Always push in chair when leaving.**
10. If you need to use the restroom, sharpen pencil, etc. please ask permission.
11. This class operates on the principle of mutual respect. When the teacher is talking everyone listens. Likewise, when the student has permission to talk, everyone listens. (Combing one's hair, doing one's nails, reading magazines, etc. are not listening and are not appropriate behavior in class.) When working in groups, students are to talk quietly and contribute equally to the group.

III. Course Goals

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Democratic Process as written in the U.S. Constitution including – structure, powers, election/voting, terms, removal, qualifications (voting and offices) for all offices from the local, state and federal levels for the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and process of Federalism – including the sharing and separation of power on the federal, state and local levels, what those powers are and what they are limited to, and how this allows them to serve the people of the United States.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the Bill of Rights and the Amendments by examining them through societal issues such as the civil rights movement for minorities, the death penalty, and the rights of persons accused of a crime.
4. Demonstrate a basic geographic knowledge of the location of countries of the world, their location, physical environment, and human activity, through current events, which will demonstrate the interconnected nature of our world.
5. Demonstrate a basic understanding of economic principles, global economic interdependence, and basic personal financial management.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of a citizen of the U.S. so that they may participate in an informed manner in their society.

I have read and understand the rules and syllabus of Ms. Helsel’s classroom.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____

**** Return this portion of this paper signed by September 1st along with proof of ownership of the appropriate notebook for a HOMEWORK grade of 20 points.***