Government (SS1223; 1224) Syllabus

**Teacher:** Mrs. Bowman  
**Room:** C-15  
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**Overview**  
The full year Government course covers information from the early roots of government in the United States, to the creation of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, to the three branches of the federal government, and the importance of foreign policy in United States’ history and current-day. This class will be a diverse blend of reading comprehension, projects both individually and collaboratively, and various quizzes and exams.

**Topics**  
Unit 1: Early Influences, The Constitution and the Bill of Rights  
Unit 2: Legislative and Executive Branches  
Unit 3: Judicial Branch and Law  
Unit 4: Foreign Policy

**Rules and Expectations**  
Students are expected to follow all rules of the classroom at all times: no exceptions! Our classroom follows a specific set of rules and has a strict behavior plan in place to enforce those rules. The following are our classroom rules:  
  
 1. Do not disrespect anyone or anything in any way. **No exceptions**! (2 points)  
 2. Always be on time. (1 point for every minute late)  
 3. No use of inappropriate language at any time. (2 points)  
 4. Do what is asked of you during our class time. (2 points)  
  
Each student begins the week with ten points. Each time a student breaks one of these rules, they lose the allotted number of points. For instance, if they use inappropriate language two times over the course of the week, they will end the week with a 6/10. This is put into Genesis as a grade out of ten. In this case, the student would end the week with a 60%. If a student goes below 0, they will receive a write-up and a parent will be contacted.

**Classroom Procedures**  
1. Students will enter the room and check the board for what materials they need before sitting down and preparing for class. They will gather all the materials needed, and then take a seat in their assigned seats.  
  
2. The first 5-10 minutes of class are dedicated to quietly answering the warm-up question that will be listed on the board. They will answer this question in their journals. These journals are checked weekly for a grade.  
  
3. Once the warm-up is completed and the teacher has gone over it, the day's agenda, which will be written on the board, will be gone over.  
  
4. The day's lesson will take place.  
  
5. With five minutes left in the period, each student will be responsible for answering the closure question in their journal. This will also be checked weekly, on Fridays.  
  
6. Once students are done, all materials will be put away. Students will not be dismissed until they are seated and the room is clean.

**Absence Procedures**  
When a student is absent, they will be responsible for checking the absence station in the back of the room for any assignments that they have missed. They will not be responsible for making up any warm ups and closures, but should note in their journal that they were absent underneath that date. All worksheets will be located in the absence station. If there are no worksheets in their folder, they should ask a classmate what they missed. For further information, they may ask the teacher.

Assignments will be due **2 days** after the student receives it.

**Late Policy**  
There is rarely a valid excuse for turning assignments in late. Each day that an assignment is late, **25%** will be deducted from the final grade. For example, on a 100 point assignment, the highest you may receive if it is one day late is 75. The highest you may receive if it is two days late is a 50. The highest you may receive if it is three days late is a 25. After four days, the assignment will not be graded at all. For large assignments, students may use a homework pass to take an extra day to work on the assignment with no penalty.

**Warm Ups/Closures**  
As previously stated, on most days we will be starting class with a warm up and ending it with a closure. These will be recorded in your journal, which will stay in the classroom. I will be conducting **random journal checks**. Each entry is worth **2 points**. If your journal is not in the bin, I will not check it, and you will receive a 0.

**Materials**  
For this class, you will need to have the following materials. These materials are a necessity to your success:

* A composition book or spiral notebook (to stay in class and be used for a journal)
* A 3 ring binder for handouts and notes
* 4 dividers for your binder (to keep yourself organized)
* A pencil **EVERY DAY!**

**Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty  
*“****All good is hard. All evil is easy. Dying, losing, cheating, and mediocrity is easy. Stay away from easy.” -- Scott Alexander*

If any student is found cheating on any assignment, they will be disciplined accordingly. Copying another student’s assignment, no matter how small, is considered cheating, and will be handled as such. You will receive a 0 on the assignment and will be written up for cheating and dishonesty. Cheating on an assignment is only cheating yourself, and you deserve better.

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By signing this paper, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information outlined in the syllabus. I agree to follow all rules, accept consequences for my actions, and try my best at all times.

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 Student’s Signature Date

By signing this paper, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information outlined in this syllabus. I understand that my child must follow all rules, and will accept the consequences for any broken rules.

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 Parent/Guardian Signature Date