**Government Syllabus**

Welcome to Government! This goal of this course is to introduce students the fundamental principles of the American system of government. We will examine the foundations and structure of the American government, as well as a number of relevant issues facing our country that will better help students to become informed and active citizens.

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| --- | --- |
| **Major Units** | **Grading Scale** |
| 1. Historical Foundations of American Government | A 90-100 |
| 1. Legislative Branch | B 89-80 |
| 1. Executive Branch | C 79-70 |
| 1. Judicial Branch | D 69-60 |
| 1. State Government | F <60 |

**How you will be graded…**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Homework | Homework must be turned in on time to receive full credit. You may turn in late homework for half credit within one week of the due date. | 30% |
| Participation | Students will be expected to regularly participate in class discussion and be respectful of each other. | 15% |
| Assessments | Quizzes, tests, and papers. All major units will end with a test. | 40% |
| Final | The final will consist of multiple choice and a DBQ paper. | 15% |

**Classroom Rules**

* Be Respectful!
* Come to class prepared every day. This includes a binder and a writing utensil.
* No food is allowed in class. Students may bring a water bottle.
* Students are not to pack up early or line up at the door. Class is not over until the bell rings.
* NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED. If students need to contact home they must go to the office to do so. Cell phones and headphones must be out of sight during class.

**Class Website**

Schedule, homework assignments, notes, and resources for this class can be found at ryanhollister.weebly.com

**Contact Information**

Please feel free to see me for extra help, suggestions, or any problems that may arise. I can be found in room 3001 before school. I can be contacted via email at [ryan.hollister@d300.org](mailto:ryan.hollister@d300.org). Students are expected to be self-advocates and act as the first line of communication between teachers and parents. My office phone is 847-792-3500 ext. 3761. EMAIL IS THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME.

**Films and Documentaries**

We will be viewing and discussing a number of films and documentaries focusing on the topics covered in this course. The film “Lions for Lambs,” which focuses on the war in Afghanistan, is rated “R” for language and some war violence. Students must have parental/guardian permission to view this film. If they do not, an alternative assignment will be given.

**Congressional Simulation and Moot Court**

Students will be participating in two activities in which they are expected to dress professionally. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points.

**Government**

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parents (Guardians) and students:**

Please review the course guide carefully and sign below.

□ We have read and understand the students expectations.

□ We have reviewed and understand the grading procedures.

□ We understand that the student must have a binder.

□ We understand that assignments, notes, and resources can be found on the class website, ryanhollister.weebly.com

□ We know how to contact Mr. Hollister during the school day. 847-792-3500 ext. 3761 or [ryan.hollister@d300.org](mailto:ryan.hollister@d300.org)

□ We understand that NO CELLPHONES ARE ALLOWED IN MR. HOLLISTER’S ROOM

□ We give permission for our child to view the film “Lions for Lambs”

□ We understand that students are expected to dress professionally during the congressional simulation and moot court activity.

Student Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) ­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your time. If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hollister