

<b>Course Title:</b> American Government	<b>Subject Area:</b> Social Studies
<b>Credits:</b> 0.5	
<b>This course earns graduation credit in the following content area:</b> Social Studies	
<p><b>Course overview:</b> Why study Government?                  In a democracy the people make decisions about government, it is your responsibility as a citizen to be informed. This class will give you the basic information about government and how to be a responsible citizen. There are also speaking skills, critical thinking skills and reasoning skills that will help you in any future higher education programs. Almost every career requires knowledge about laws and how the government works. From social workers who earn about \$20,000 a year, to CEO's of major corporations who earn millions, the knowledge of government and politics is essential.</p> <p><b>Standards Addressed:</b>  <b>Entire Class (repeated opportunities for proficiency in all units):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS 6 Analyze ideas critical to the understanding of history, including, but not limited to: Legislature, Federalism, Brown v. Board of Education(1954), Due Process of Law, Rule of Law, Political Party, General Election, Propaganda, Electoral College, Constituents, Foreign Policy, Plaintiff, and Defendant.</li> <li>• HS 59 Demonstrate the skills and dispositions needed to be a critical consumer of information. (Notebook)</li> <li>• HS 63 Engage in informed and respectful deliberation and discussion of issues, events, and ideas. (Participation)</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit I: The Constitution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS 25 Describe elements of early governments that are visible in U.S. government structure</li> <li>• HS 26 Define and compare/contrast United States republican government to direct democracy, socialism, communism, theocracy, oligarchy</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit II: Civil Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS 24 Analyze and critique the impact of constitutional amendments</li> <li>• HS 32 Examine and evaluate documents and decisions related to the Constitution and Supreme Court decisions</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit III: Political Parties and Elections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS 30 Analyze the roles and activities of political parties, interest groups, and mass media and how they affect the behaviors of local, state, and national constituencies</li> <li>• HS 34 Explain the responsibilities of citizens</li> </ul> <p><b>Unit IV: Branches of Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HS 27 Examine functions and processes of U.S. government</li> <li>• HS 33 Explain the role of government in current events</li> </ul>	
<b>District adopted materials/ Supplemental resources:</b>	
<b>Textbook:</b> <i>Civics</i>	
<b>Supplies:</b> You will be required to maintain an organized notebook, making sure that all work is done in your notebook.	
<b>Classwork &amp; Homework (Learning Opportunities) Policy:</b>	
Homework may be assigned regularly. Late work will be accepted, but with a deduction.	
<p><b>Expectations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>We Will Be On Time.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ...better yet, be EARLY. Punctuality is vital to your success in class this semester. (<i>see 10/10 and tardy policy</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>We Will Be Prepared.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Be ready to learn the MOMENT you walk through the door                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Be prepared...that means Pencil/Pen and Paper is a vital necessity.</li> <li>▪ You will have an assignment to work on <u>the instant</u> you enter the classroom every single day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Put the toys away                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anything that looks like a toy or resembles a toy (iPhone, headphones, cell phone, etc...) is not to be used in our classroom. Refer to the McKay High School Handbook regarding this policy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Drinks with lid are ok – Ask about food – Gum is ok. Be responsible and treat this space with respect.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>We Will Be Nice.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Be Respectful and Be Honest.</li> <li>○ Leave a positive legacy with how you treat each other, your teachers, and your school.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

- Instances requiring discipline will be handled as per the McKay High School Handbook.

**4. We Will Work Hard.**

- Give your best effort.
  - I EXPECT your best effort every day. Make the best use of your time. Be intentional!
- Be an active participant.
  - Ask questions, offer answers, take an interest in the day's discussion. Why waste the experience?
  - YOU WILL GET OUT OF THIS CLASS WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT!

**5. No personnel electronic equipment can be used in class (i.e. cell phones, etc.) unless at teacher's discretion.**

**\*Discipline issues will be handled as per Salem-Keizer Policy and McKay HS Student Handbook.**

**Assessment/evaluation/grading policy:**

Final Grades will be calculated using the following 4.0 scale:

- 4.0: Exceeds Standard (A)**
- 3.0: Above Average understanding (B)**
- 2.0: Meets Standard (C)**
- 1.0: Developing toward standard**
- 0.0: No Effort (F)**

**\*\* In order to pass the class, you MUST receive at least a 2.0 on EVERY standard. Failure to do so will result in an F for the class.\*\***

**Breakdown of percentages:**

- A- 100% - 83.25%**
- B- 83.24% - 66.50%**
- C- 66.49% - 50%**
- F- 49.9% and below**

**Other Requirements:**

**Requirements:** In order to succeed in this class, students must accept responsibility for mastering this material and for completing all class requirements. All students are required to: complete class assignments, turn in written assignments, take all quizzes and tests, participate in class activities, complete a final project, *keep an organized class notebook containing notes, worksheets, assignment sheets and any other materials that are handed out (will be provided).*

**\*Work cannot be made-up for an unexcused absence.**

**\*See your teacher to schedule make-up quizzes and tests. These must be made up before or after school.**

*I have read the aforementioned class description and guidelines, and I understand what Mr. Parker expects from students in terms of effort, participation, student preparation, grading, attendance, and tardies. I understand that this class is a credit requirement and that the student ALONE is accountable for his/her attendance, participation, effort, and final grade.*

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

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

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

Parent Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2016