

GCS High School Virtual Program

Government Syllabus

Unit Credit: 0.5

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Mr. Charles Titus

Room: Virtual through Google Meets

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Email:

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**Office Hours: 8:30 am - 8:45 am and 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
everyday.**

Course Description:

Students will study the historical and philosophical principles that led to the development of the American constitutional democracy and how those fundamental ideas have continued to sustain America's democratic society. Students will learn how various powers are granted and distributed among the different branches and levels of government, and how checks and balances prevent one branch from overpowering the others. Additionally, students will investigate how American political values are formed and how the government functions through individual participation and policy making. In order to continue to thrive, a strong democracy relies on active participation by informed individuals dedicated to upholding the rule of law and individual rights. This course provides a basis for students to develop the skills necessary to live and thrive in America's constitutional democracy and participate in society as active and informed citizens. US Government is required for graduation. PREREQUISITE: Social Studies teacher recommendation

Honors Students:

Honors students will be held to higher expectations in this course. You will have additional enrichment opportunities, readings, extended response questions, and differentiated tests than the CP students.

Course Standards:

The course standards for Government are based on the standards found in the “[South Carolina Social Studies College- and Career-Ready Standards](#).” Students who successfully complete Government with a passing 60% or higher will have demonstrated the ability, concepts, knowledge, and skills required to meet those course objectives. These course standards will be provided within the syllabus.

Guide:

- Unit 1 - Foundations of Government**
- Unit 2 - Origins of American Government**
- Unit 3 - The Constitution**
- Unit 4 - Federalism**
- Unit 5 - The Legislative Branch**
- Unit 6 - The Executive Branch**
- Unit 7 - The Judicial Branch**
- Unit 8 - Citizenship and Civil Rights**
- Unit 9 - Government and the Economy**
- Unit 10 - State and Local Governments**
- Unit 11 - Final Project**

Grading :

Grades: Student progress is cumulatively assessed each nine weeks in the following way:

60 Percent: Major Grades - Major Tests, Projects, and Major writing Assignments

40 Percent: Minor Grades - Formative Assessments, Quizzes

Grading Scale: A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 50-59

*A final exam will be given weighing 10% of the final grade for the course.
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Required Materials:

3 ring binder

Pen/Pencil

Paper

Textbook (code provided by teacher)

Google Classroom Acct (code provided by teacher)

Absence/Missed Work Policy:

Attendance in this class is essential. Much of the material for success is provided through lecture/discussion. Missing class can create problems. Work missed due to an excused absence may be made up within 5 school days (per district and school policy). All work not made up will result in a grade of ZERO. **If a student is absent the day of a test or quiz, it will be taken the first day you return as the assignments are posted on the board at least one week prior to the actual test or quiz date**

Late Work Policy/Makeup Policy:

- Work assigned is expected to be completed by the assigned date due.
- It remains the responsibility of the student to turn in work even if it is late.
- 10 point deduction per day will be applied for late work up to five days resulting in a maximum penalty of 50 points.
- Students will have 5 days to make up all missing assignments, including projects, quizzes, tests, and any other assignment deemed a major assignment by the teacher.
- Teachers will handle unique situations on a case-by-case basis, and have the autonomy to determine whether they will accept work beyond the 5 days for credit.

Minor Work/Homework Policy:

If you are present when minor work, test, quiz, or homework is assigned, you will be expected to take it at the assigned time (unless new material was covered during an excused absence). Project due dates are non-negotiable. If you are absent on a project due date you will be expected to turn in the completed project and/or present your project on the day you return to school.

Class Procedures:

Each student is provided a digital copy of the GCS High School Virtual Program Student Handbook which outlines student expectations for behavior in the classroom. If you have not already done so, please refer to your student handbook to familiarize yourself with behavioral and academic expectations in the virtual classroom environment.

Classroom Rules:

- Be in your seat ready to learn at the scheduled time.
- Come to class prepared everyday.

- Cheating is unacceptable and will be dealt with according to the Student Handbook. This includes looking at another student's work or copying another student's work. Any type of cheating will result in a "0" grade. No questions asked!
 - Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment and, if found guilty of plagiarism, a grade of ZERO will be assigned.
- Please see the Virtual Quiz/Test Procedures below for more information on rules in regards to testing.
- Disruptive behavior is unacceptable—this includes tardiness, rudeness, irrelevant class interrupting, etc. If you want respect, you must show respect to others.
- Stay in the Google Meet until you are dismissed.
- Other rules will be discussed by the teacher in class at any time as needed.

Virtual Quiz/Test Procedures

- Violations of these rules will result in a grade of ZERO on the test or quiz.
- To ensure that all students have the same academic environment for testing, all tests and quizzes will be designated as SILENT.
- You may NOT ask, text, etc. friends and family for answers to questions. There is no justifiable reason for student-to-student conversation during a test or quiz.
- If the test is submitted late, you cannot retake it
- You are bound by the Greenville County Schools Intellectual Contract that your work will be your own and not from someone else
- The teacher will be in the classroom the entire class period to answer any questions about the test.
- If you don't know your student ID then go into the backpack and look under the student profile. You will see your student ID located here.