

# US GOVERNMENT

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## Syllabus

**Overview:** US Government is designed to give students a critical perspective on government in the United States. The class will involve both the study of general concepts used to interpret American politics and the analysis of specific policy initiatives.

Students are expected to express themselves with clarity, maturity, and precision.

### Major Themes

Theme I: Philosophy and Foundations

Theme II: Civil Liberties/Civil Rights

Themes III/IV: Socialization, Interest Groups, Elections, the Media

Themes V/VI: Congress and the Presidency

Theme VII: Judiciary

### Evaluation and Expectations

**Exams, Essays, Projects** 60%

**Assignments, Readings, Quizzes, Notebook** 40%

There will be at least five major objective question exams during the nine-week period. The instructor reserves the right to give quizzes or tests at anytime during the term. All assignments are expected to be turned in on time.

**Buying the Curve:** You have the option of writing an out of class essay to gain up to ten points on your exam grade.

**Reading Quizzes:** It is assumed, by the instructor, that you are reading the assigned text. Reading quizzes can be scheduled or not. These are ten question multiple choice quizzes that are ten minutes long.

### Late work will be accepted as follows:

**Minor Grades:** One day late=50 point deduction

Two days late="0"

**Major Grades:** One day late = 20 point deduction

Two days late = 40 point deduction

Three days late = "0"

**Excused Absences:** It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Missed quizzes and tests must be taken within two days of the absence. An absence the day before a test does not excuse one from the taking the test when scheduled. Make-up exams are given before school beginning at 7:30 am and not during another teacher's class.

**Notebook:** Students must maintain an organized notebook. This will be an invaluable preparation tool for quizzes, exams, the final, and the national exam. The notebook will be graded multiple times during the term.

Notebook Contents: Notes taken from reading and lecture, Class assignments  
Guided Reading and Workbook assignments

### **Written Assignments/ Essays**

All written assignments (except outside of class essays) must be hand written using **BLUE OR BLACK INK.**

All outside of class essays must be typed. Your type must be 12 pica, single-spaced, and a standard font (Arial preferred). Margins must be 1" on all sides. Title the essay or assignment. Place your name and class period on line in the upper right-hand corner.

**Essay Rubric:** For in class and outside of class essays

**Content:** material meets criteria of assignment, 80%  
correct and precise information. Covers topic in sufficient detail and provides supporting statements and analysis.

**Organization:** material shows cohesion, logical sequencing, polished product 10%

**Grammar, Style, and Language:** correct use 10%  
of grammar rules, original thought, mature discussion of conflicting perspectives, and full analytical language

**Reading:** Reading ahead, of where we are in class, is essential. When you finish one chapter it is to be assumed that the next one on your schedule has been automatically assigned. You must take quality, coherent, organized notes over each chapter you read. These notes are to be placed in your notebook and can be checked as part of notebook checks. If you need help taking notes see the instructor. You can expect a reading quiz after a new chapter has begun. **I AM TELLING YOU TO READ NOW. I DO NOT HAVE TO REMIND YOU.**

**Honesty:** The LISD policy on academic dishonesty and fraud will be strictly enforced.

### **Disclaimer**

The inclusion of social science source material in course material is not intended as an endorsement by the instructor of the content, ideas, or values expressed in the material. The material has been selected by the faculty who serve on the Committee of Examiners and the course instructor. In their judgment, the material reflects various aspects of the course of study on which the AP examination is based and therefore appropriate to use to measure the students' skills and knowledge of this course.