

Government
Mesa Grande Academy

Instructor Contact Information

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Students and parents: If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above information at any time. If I am unavailable, I will respond as soon as possible.

Textbook: Magruder's American Government (2013) *isbn: 978-0-13-324082-5*

Course Description: US Government will provide the student with a study of all levels of government in the United States. The students will develop an understanding of the processes of government while developing an appropriate sense of citizenship as a participant in our society.

Course Objectives: The objectives of this course are specifically aimed at teaching students the Course Abilities outlined from the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist social studies handbook.

1. Utilize the principles and methodologies of cooperative learning (benefiting from others' experiences).
2. Equip students with a Christian approach toward social issues.
3. Develop critical and creative thinking skills (research, analysis, evaluation, correlation).
4. Develop effective communication skills (speaking, writing, listening, debating, using technology, etc.).
5. Be able to apply social studies knowledge and skills.
6. Read, research, analyze, write, and present using primary, secondary, and technological sources.
7. Identify key concepts and themes.
8. Be able to conduct historical inquiry and analysis to develop an understanding of government.
9. Be able to utilize various literacy skills for interpreting historical data.
10. Be able to appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a diverse society.
11. Be able to assess and integrate political concepts into practical applications.

Teacher's Beliefs:

- God loves you as you are, not as you should be.
- Everyone's thoughts and opinions are valuable.
- I will expect your best and will give you mine.
- It is not important how smart you are, but how you are smart.

Grading Scale: Grades are based on the following percentages:

Journals/Class Participation-	15%		98-100 = A+	
Projects/Tests –		40%	93-97 = A	
HW/Current Events –	20%		90-92 = A-	
Quizzes -	17%		87-89 = B+	
Final Exam -	8%		84-86 = B	
			80-83 = B-	
			77-79 = C+	
			74-76 = C	
			70-73 = C-	
			67-69 = D+	
			64-66 = D	
			60-63 = D-	
			0-59 = F	

Homework: From time to time there will be assignments/projects. Projects will come with rubrics which you can use to guide your work. Additionally, your daily homework will usually consist of reading your textbook, filling out concept maps and worksheets.

Current Events: Current Events will be assigned periodically to help understand the various situations in government today. Current events will be a selection of articles given to you and you will select one of them to read and respond to. Rubrics and instructions will be given out to help guide you in these tasks.

**Tests/Quizzes:
Projects**

Tests will be given after the end of a unit. Reviews will be given to you within at least 3 days before the test.

Quizzes will be given periodically over sections in chapters from the textbook and over notes from lecture or activities in class.

Projects will be given out on a few occasions. Rubrics and instructions will be given out to help guide you.

If you are absent for a test/quiz but are in class the day before the test, it is expected that you make up the test on the day of your return. If you are absent the day before the test and the day of the test, you will have three days to take the test after your return to school. If the test is not made up in that time period, you will receive a zero for the test.

Late Work: It is important to me that you do your work well and turn it in on time. It shows responsibility and a good work ethic. No late work is accepted unless accompanied by official documentation of an excused absence and/or by making prior arrangements with the teacher. If you have an excused absence, you must see the teacher for make-up work on the day of your return or it will be considered late work. It is your responsibility for finding out work that was missed while you were absent.

Journals: Journals will be provided to students at the beginning of the semester. They should never leave the classroom. Journals will be the norm for how class will be started everyday. Students should be ready to copy down the journal number and question for points. If you are absent for a journal, it is your responsibility to make them up.

**Participation/
Discipline Policy:** The classroom rules are simple: respect the teacher, respect the classroom and respect others.
Respect includes such things as being quiet while others are talking and during class activities, not throwing things in class, and remaining seated during lectures. Students who do not follow classroom rules will see a loss of points in their participation grade.

If there is a problem with behavior, we will take the following actions.

- 1) A meeting after class
- 2) A behavior reflection sheet signed by parents
- 3) Meeting with administration

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will result in an F for that assignment. Any talking during a quiz or test until every student is finished will be interpreted as academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes copying, faxing, emailing, messaging or in any way duplicating assignments that are turned in wholly or in part, as original work. It also includes exchanging assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes, or taking credit for group work when you have not contributed to an equal or appropriate share toward the final result.

Plagiarism will also be regarded as academic dishonesty. If you do not give proper credit, it is plagiarism. If you use three or more words of someone else's work without proper citation, it is plagiarism. You will receive a zero for the assignment if you are caught plagiarizing and at risk of failing the course. Academy honesty and personal integrity is a must in this classroom.

Food & Drink: Water is the only drink allowed at your desk. No food may be eaten in class without teacher permission.

Attendance: Regular and engaged attendance is essential. You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements on course procedures. Be in your seat and ready to learn when the bell rings. You will be allocated three "gifts" to go out of the classroom to use the restroom or step outside. Any time you are tardy per quarter, you will also lose one of these gifts. If you do not use any of these "gifts", those "gifts" will turn into 2 points extra credit under your test grade.

Extra Help: If you ever have any questions or need extra help, PLEASE contact me. I am happy to help you, but you need to let me know you need help. The best time to get help is to come to my classroom right after school, but you can also e-mail me or get in contact with me in another format.

Tentative Schedule:

	Chapters
Foundations of American Government	
Principles of Government	1
Origins of American Government	2
The Constitution	3
Federalism	4
Political Behavior: Government By the People	
Political Parties	5
Voters and Voter Behavior	6
The Electoral Process	7
Mass Media and Public Opinion	8
The Legislative Branch	
Congress	10
Powers of Congress	11
Congress in Action	12
The Executive Branch	
The Presidency	13
The Presidency in Action	14
Govt at Work: The Bureaucracy	15
The Judicial Branch	
The Federal Court System	18

Information in this syllabus is subject to change at the teacher's discretion

**U.S. Government
First Homework Assignment**

August 16, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of U.S. Government Students,

First of all, I want to tell you how excited I am about the opportunity to work with your students in U.S. Government this semester. I find U.S. Government is an excellent area of study in which to not only educate your student on significant U.S. events, but also discuss and learn from successes and failures in our government and our leaders.

I believe education is a joint process between parents, teachers, and students. One way you can do this is by taking the time to read through this syllabus with your child and discuss the guidelines and requirements of this class. Also, as you review the subject matter we will cover, please feel free to contact me and share any resources or suggestions you have related to materials that may supplement a given topic. I am always looking for ways to present government in a relatable way. I have already gone through the syllabus with your student and have answered any questions they might have.

After you have read through the syllabus, please sign the section below, along with your student, and have your student return it to me no later than Monday, August 20, 2018.

If you have any questions about this class, feel free to contact me at (909) 795-1112 ext. 234 opr at timothy.giang@mgak-12.org. Thank you for your support of Christian education and Mesa Grande Academy. I look forward to working with you and to having an exceptional learning experience with your student in our government class.

Sincerely,

Timothy Giang
US Government Teacher

For the Student: I have read the U.S. Government class syllabus and understand fully the principles and guidelines it contains. As a student of Mesa Grande Academy, I hereby agree to comply with the stated rules.

Student Name(Print)

Signature

Date

For the Parent/Guardian: I pledge to support the principles and rules described in the U.S. Government class syllabus by assisting my student in observing the policies of this class.