



U.S. Government Grand Haven High School



Course Number: C88

Grade Level: Junior/Senior

Credits: .5

Prerequisite Courses: World History/U.S. History

Course Description

U.S. Government is a survey course that explores the major tenets of our Government. This includes the foundations of our Government and Constitution, exploring the powers of all three branches, public policy, media, elections, voting behavior, foreign policy etc. Current issues will also be discussed with a focus on informational reading and application to current public policy,

Course Objectives

This course is the capstone of the Grand Haven High School Social Studies curriculum. The goals of this American Government course is active engagement in public discourse as citizens in our democracy. In addition to active discussion about politics, students in this course may conduct a trial, participate in an election, debate in a legislature, and complete other hands-on Project Based Learning assignments. The role of service in the community and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship are emphasized. A public policy project will be a part of the class.

Student Expectations

The student is self-motivated and self-directed (*independent worker*), the student is a positive leader by his/her actions and words (*leadership*), the student utilizes higher-level thinking skills such as analyzing, inferring, applying, and creating (*thinking skills*), the student has a good work ethic, stays on task, and remains focused and diligent (*work ethic*), the student listens actively, answers questions, is engaged in class discussion, does his/her part in group activities and uses class time productively (*participation*), the student goes “above and beyond” the minimum requirements for an “A” thus producing quality work (*motivation*), the student’s writing reflects insight, creativity, and thoroughness in addition to following the appropriate format (*writing ability*), the student listens and is respectful of others’ opinions, follows classroom procedures, and is cooperative and congenial (*behavior*)

Building Behavioral Expectations

TEAM GH ... One Team, One Family, One Grand Haven. Be Kind. Always.

It is our expectation that ALL GHHS students, staff and parents will ... always give their best **EFFORT** in everything that they do, work hard to be **INCLUSIVE** of each other, show **RESPONSIBILITY** in class, the hallways, cafeteria and at events, and **WORK TOGETHER** at all times!

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Communication

The student will be provided with specific contact information for teachers as well as access to our Google Classroom. Students and parents may view course progress in the Parent Internet Viewer.

Grading Policy

80% of your grade is summative assessment and 20% of your grade is formative assessment. The final exam will be comprehensive and will count for 20% of the semester grade.

Scope and Sequence

A. Foundations of American Democracy

Origins of American Government

The Constitution

Liberty and Responsibility (including the courts)

B. Making Public Policy

Public Policy Project

Congress

Legislative Process

C. Government By The People

Ideology

Electing the President

Voters

The Media

Political Parties

Interest Groups

Elections

D. The Rest of the Story

The Federal Bureaucracy

Foreign Policy

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