

# WELCOME TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

## Expectations

This class is the capstone of your required high school social studies curriculum. Our focus will be on public policy and citizenship. Many of the activities in this class require interaction with your peers, so **attendance and participation** are of utmost importance. You are expected to model responsibility, respect, diligence, thoughtfulness, and good citizenship. I will be available for drop-ins daily before school.

## Textbook/Materials

**Magruder's American Government 2009 and associated online materials.**

## Grading Scale

93-100 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-66 D
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-
87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	0-59 F

## Classroom Expectations and Grading Criteria

Your grade will be based on two components:

FORMATIVE (20%)

Responsibility, respect, promptness, cooperation, organization, participation, communication, preparation, and attention to detail are just some of the citizenship and employability skills that you will have an opportunity to develop and demonstrate in this class. You will earn points for each day that you are in class, on time, well prepared, informed, and engaged. Exceptional participation in class and/or demonstration of citizenship outside of class may earn extra credit in this area.

## SUMMATIVE (80%)

Includes Quizzes, Tests, and Projects. Assignments will be varied, giving many opportunities to demonstrate your understanding, including essays, speeches, whole-class activities, small group discussion, student-led presentations, and simulations. During the course of the semester, you will investigate a public policy issue and present your recommendations to the class. As part of this project, you will be incorporating public opinion polling, research, and examination of the political debate around your issue.

### Syllabus

#### A. Foundations of American Democracy

Origins of American Government

The Constitution

Liberty and Responsibility

#### B. Making Public Policy

Public Policy Project

Congress

I'm just a Bill

#### 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