

TEACHER INFORMATION

Name: TBD

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

SS212 VIRGINIA AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT:

One full-year credit

The curriculum examines the structure and functions of our federal form of government. The decision-making processes at the local, state, national, and international levels are emphasized. The foundations of American government, the politics of American democracy, and constitutional rights and responsibilities are explored in depth. United States political and economic systems are compared to those of other nations, with emphasis on the relationships between economic and political freedoms. Economic content includes the United States market system, supply and demand, and the role of the government in the economy. Democratic values and citizen participation are stressed throughout the course.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

Students completing this course will develop an understanding of the foundations, structures, practices, and citizen participation in state and federal government and how Virginia and the United States compare to other nations. Students will demonstrate proficiency in research, writing, and discussions in an online learning environment throughout the lessons of this course.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

In order to complete this course you must have:

- A working email address. If you choose to change your email address at any time during the school year please contact your instructor and CCPSOnline as soon as possible. We will use email frequently so this is very important.
- Reliable access to the internet. If you do not have access to high speed internet you need to establish a regular time to use the internet at your school or your local library. If you lose access to your home internet because of some unforeseen forces (severe weather, etc.) please contact your instructor as soon as possible. "My internet is down" will not be accepted as an excuse to turn in late work unless you have already contacted your instructor.
- Remind.com – you will be expected to sign up for this class' Remind.com communications which will be delivered to you by text or email (your choice). This service is free (your text message rates apply, email is free). See the "Information" section in Blackboard for details.
- iCivics – you will be expected to sign up for a free account on www.iCivics.org, a website where we will complete several assignments this year. See the "Information" section in blackboard for details. However, you may complete all assignments without "joining."

COURSE OUTLINE:

FIRST SEMESTER

Unit 1—Term ends Nov. 2

Section 1 Citizenship (*GOVT 3.a-c, 3.f, 16*)

Topics Covered:

Civic Participation and Values;
Participation in Civic Life;
Meaning of Citizenship;
Fundamental Democratic Freedoms

Section 2 Foundations (*GOVT 1.a, 1.c, 2*)

Topics Covered:

Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophies;
Democratic Foundations from Great Britain;

- Magna Carta
- English Petition of Rights,
- English Bill of Rights

European Philosophers of the Enlightenment;

- Hobbes,
- Locke,
- Montesquieu

Foundational Documents of American Democracy;

- Virginia Company of London Charter;
- Virginia Declaration of Rights;
- Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom;
- Bill of Rights

Section 3 Constitution (*GOVT 3.d-e, 4, 5*)

Topics Covered:

Ratification of the Constitution;
Majority Rule and Minority Rights;
Purposes of Government as Defined in the Preamble;
Fundamental Principles of the Constitution;
Structure of the National Government Outlined in Articles I, II, and III;
The Amendment Process;
The Federal System;

- Relationship between State and National Government,
- Powers Shared and Powers Denied;
- Debate over the Balance of Power

Section 4 Political Process, Part 1 (*GOVT 6.a-c, 7.c, 9.b, 9.f-g*)

Topics Covered:

Political Ideology;
Local, State, and National Elections;

Role of Political Parties;
Campaign Financing;
Influence of Media, Individuals and Groups on National Government;
Devising a Course of Action to Address Local/State Issues

Unit 2—Term ends Jan. 25

Section 1 Political Process, Part 2 (*GOVT 6.c, 7.c, 8.d, 9.f*)

Topics Covered:

Influence of Media on Elections;

- Coverage
- Advertising,
- Polling,
- Social Media,
- Digital Communications

Influence of Interest Groups and Individuals on National Government;
Influence of Interest Groups and Individuals on State and Local Government;
Influence of Interest Groups and Individuals on Public Policy

Section 2 Voting (*GOVT 6.e-f*)

Topics Covered:

Voting and Voter Turnout;

Influences on Voter Turnout;

Extending the Right to Vote;

Voting Rights Amendments;

- 15th,
- 19th,
- 23rd,
- 26th

Section 3 Legislative Branch (*GOVT 6.d, 7.a-b*)

Topics Covered:

The Organization and Powers of the Legislative Branch;

Impact of Reapportionment and Redistricting of Elections

Section 4 Executive Branch (*GOVT. 7.a-b, 9.e, 12.a-b, 15.b*)

Topics Covered:

The Organization and Responsibilities of the Executive Branch;

Policy Implementation and Bureaucracy;

Foreign Policy and National Security

SECOND SEMESTER

Unit 3—ends Mar. 29

Section 1 Judicial Branch (*GOVT 7.a, 10.a-e*)

Topics Covered:

The Organization and Powers of the Judicial Branch;
Organization and Jurisdiction of Federal Courts;
Supreme Court History and Process;
Judicial Activism and Judicial Restraint;
Judiciary Influences over Public Policy

Section 2 Civil Liberties (*GOVT 11.a-e*)

Topics Covered:

Bill of Rights;
Due Process;
Supreme Court and Selective Incorporation;
The Balance Between Individual Liberties and the Public Interest;
Protection of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Section 3 Virginia's System of Government (*GOVT 8.a*)

Topics Covered:

Virginia's System of Government;
Virginia's Judicial Branch;
The General Assembly;
Virginia's Executive Officials

Section 4 Local Government (*GOVT 8.b-c*)

Topics Covered:

Structure and Powers of Local Governments;
Relationships Between Local Governments and State Government

Section 5 Public Policy (*GOVT 8.d-e, 9.a-g*)

Topics Covered:

Individual and Group Influence on Public Policy;
Citizen Influence on State and Local Governments;
Media and Interest Group Influence over Public Policy;
National Government Influence on Public Policy;

- Equal Rights Amendment,
- Americans with Disabilities Act,
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Unit 4—Term ends Jun. 14

Section 1 Economics (GOVT 14)

Topics Covered:

Basic Economic Questions;

Comparing Economies;

- Traditional,
- Free Market,
- Command,
- Mixed

Government's Role in the Economy

Section 2 Monetary and Fiscal Policy (GOVT 15.a, 15.d-e)

Topics Covered:

Government Goods and Services;

Role of Congress in Regulating and Stabilizing the Economy;

The Federal Reserve

Section 3 Virginia, the United States, and the Global Economy (GOVT 12.c, 15.c)

Topics Covered:

Trends in International Trade;

Types and Purposes of Taxation;

Trade-Offs in Government Decisions

HOW TO MEET COURSE GOALS:

- **Effective Time-Management Strategies:**
 - Plan on spending at least 4 - 6 hours per week on the class – this equals the time you would spend in a face-to-face class, including the time you would spend on homework.
 - Plan your weeks and develop a regular class work schedule—make every effort to keep current and not fall behind. Make the class part of your routine.
- **Information-seeking Methods:** Bookmark the really helpful websites and don't hesitate to ask questions. Please feel free to call me with any of your questions. There are NO "dumb" questions!
- **Self-motivational Techniques:** It's up to *you*—*you* must do the work and keep up.
- **Communication Skills:** Respond to teacher contact attempts and initiate contact whenever necessary.

GRADING:

Formative Assignments = 40% of your grade and include Journals, Discussion Board Posts and Reading Modules. Please read the description of each below.

Summative Assignments = 60% of your grade and include quizzes, activities and projects.

This class is divided in to Units and Sections. There are 4 Units (1 per Term/nine weeks). Generally speaking we spend 1 or 2 weeks on each Section. Each Section will include several assignments which will include:

1. **Overview Journal**– (Formative Grade) Each Section will have a brief Overview to give you an idea of what will be covered in that section. You will be able to read through the overview quickly. Typically each overview will end with a journal assignment in which you will write a personal reflection on the topics to be covered (journals will NOT be read by other classmates.) Worth 10 points
2. **Discussion Board** – (Formative Grade) Each Section will include a Discussion Board question. I will post a question related to a topic in that section and you will respond to the question and discuss the topic with your classmates. The minimum requirement for discussion boards consists of posting one original response and replying to two of your classmates' responses. Worth 20 points and *each post must be at least one complete paragraph and add to the discussion.*
3. **Reading** – (Formative Grade) Each Section will contain a reading module which will include different types of reading (and video) and questions to check your understanding. Worth 30-80 points. These readings are what “teaches” you the material in each section.
4. **Section Quiz** – (Summative Grade) Like a test (quizzes are open “book”) Worth 100 points
5. **Activities** – (Summative Grade) The type of activities will vary, but should be fun and interesting, these activities will break up the reading and allow you to apply your knowledge to reinforce your learning. Some activities will take more than an hour to complete so please manage your time accordingly. Worth 100 points
6. **Projects**- (Summative Grade) Projects may vary but are a cumulative assignment to demonstrate your true understanding of a topic. These projects are worth 300-400 points of your nine-week grade so it will be very important to make sure the project is turned in by the due date. You may earn extra credit if you turn in your unit projects early. Failure to submit a unit project would have a significant impact on your Term Grade (nine-week grade).

Your **Term Grades** (nine weeks grades) will be based on a cumulative point system. Each assignment will be worth a certain number of points. Your term grade will equal your total number of points earned divided by the total number of points possible. Some assignments will be worth more points than others (for example, Section Quizzes will be worth more than Discussion Board assignments). You will be able to tell the relative importance of assignments based on the number of points. The more points an assignment is worth, the more important it will be for your grade (Hint: *Make sure you do your best work on the assignments with the most points!*) The point value of each assignment is listed on the master list of assignments found under the “Information” tab in Blackboard.

Your **Semester Grades** will be based upon the following:

Semester 1

40% -- Term 1 Grade

40% -- Term 2 Grade

Semester 2

40% -- Term 3 Grade

40% -- Term 4 Grade

Visit our website for CCPSOnline information
<http://ccpsonline.ccpsnet.net/>

20% -- Semester 1 Exam

20% -- Semester 2 Exam

Your **Final Grade** for the year will be composed of the following:

50% -- Semester 1 Grade

50% -- Semester 2 Grade

"My Grades"

You may see the grades for all of your assignments in a section of Blackboard called "My Grades." It is important to understand how the Term grades are displayed in "My Grades." In this class you start with a 0% and your grade will steadily rise as you submit work. Each time you submit an assignment your grade will go up. Your grade will always go up and it will never go down. As you turn in more assignments your grade will rise higher and higher. The Term grade displayed in "My Grades" factors all future assignments as 0% meaning that the grade you see represents the grade you would get if you do not complete any more assignments. Since not all assignments are worth the same number of points some assignments will move your grade up more than others. For example, when you complete an Activity you will see your grade rise by more than when you complete a Discussion Board. Please contact me if you have any questions about this policy.

COURSE SCHEDULE/DUE DATES:

You will see due dates for each assignment in the "My Grades" section of Blackboard. Be sure to adhere to all of these due dates.

If, for any reason, you do not meet the deadline for the required assignments then you will not receive full credit for work submitted after midnight on the due date. You may always submit late work; ***however the highest grade you may earn for late work is a 60/D.*** ***If you submit a section quiz late, the highest grade on the self-graded quiz will be overridden to a 60/D.***

PLEASE NOTE- any work not submitted by the end of each term will result in a Zero.

****If, for any reason, you will not be able to meet these due dates you must notify me in ADVANCE.** I cannot accept excuses after the due dates or the day of the deadline, but if you discuss your situation with me before the due dates we may be able to agree to an alternative arrangement.

CCPS POLICIES:

Be sure you have read and that you understand the material covered in the *CCPSOnline Student and Parent Handbook* (you may view a copy at <http://ccpsonline.ccpsnet.net> or follow this direct link: <http://ccpsonline.ccpsnet.net/documents/sph-web.pdf>). You will be expected to abide by the honor code and attendance policy found in that book.

CCPSOnline HONOR CODE:

You will be expected to adhere to the following honor code:

"My work is my own and no other's. I will not copy another student's answers, use another student's account nor submit any work that is not completely my own. Giving away my work, my password or giving any access to my work to anyone also violates the CCPSOnline Honor Code."

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Save all your class documents and files in one folder on your PC – even after submitting your work! You will sometimes need to return to a previous assignment or will need to resubmit one.
- Be patient and read all directions on every page. Do not skip over any text.
- Think *before* you type—or, at the very least, *before* you post/submit.
- Proofread *all* written communication and assignments *before* sending.
- Be respectful of others and be open-minded.
- Ask questions when necessary. Take the initiative to clear up any confusion.
- Provide feedback. Tell me if something is incorrect, not working, or unclear. Let me know which activities you like and which ones could be improved.
- Work hard, be positive, and you should have an excellent, unique learning experience!

OTHER INFORMATION:

If you have any questions please contact your instructor as soon as possible so that we can get them resolved before any problems arise. The best way to contact me is by emailing me at _____.