



New Smyrna Beach High School Course Syllabus



Course Title: Government

Instructor's Information:

Mr. McClary
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mrmacsocialstudies.weebly.com

Room 5-116
*To sign up for Remind send @nsb1617 to 81010

Course Description:

The scope of this course will include government institutions and political processes, and their historical impact on American society. Content will include, but is not limited to, the functions and purpose of government, the function of the state, the constitutional framework, federalism, separation of powers, functions of the three branches of government at the local, state and national level, and the political decision-making process. Students will also explore current events and issues by critically assessing civil liberties and civil rights controversies, and consider how the government has sought to achieve balance between the needs of the society and the rights of individuals.

Course Content:

Unit	Topic	Approx. Time
I	Origins and Purpose of Government, Law and the American System	3 weeks
II	Your Role and Rights as a Citizen	5 weeks
III	Understanding the Principles and Organization of the Government	6 weeks
IV	Contemporary World Affairs and U.S. Foreign Policy	2 weeks

Major Course Standards

- **SS.912.C.1.** Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
- **SS.912.C.2.** Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.
- **SS.912.C.3.** Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.
- **SS.912.C.4.** Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of US foreign policy.

Resources and materials needed for the class:

- Marble Composition or Spiral Notebook
- Pens/pencils
- Loose-leaf paper

Electronic Devices:

CELL PHONES SHOULD BE IN YOUR POCKET, PURSE OR BOOK BAG. We will occasionally use them in class. However, if I feel your phone has become a distraction to you or your neighbor, I'll ask you to put it away. If I ask for them to be put away, they should, no questions asked. Refusal to do so results in an automatic referral. *Don't be that person.*

Working together with parents, school personnel and community members, New Smyrna Beach High School students will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be positive contributors to society.



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Electronic Component

This is a blended or mixed-mode course. In other words, many of the assignments and activities are accessible online and require access to the Internet. If this presents a problem, please see me as soon as possible in order to make alternative arrangements. Don't stress, we will figure something out. Please remember, you are required to pass a mixed-mode course AND government before you graduate.

Class Rules:

1. Don't complain or whine. You're basically an adult.
2. Ask for help when you need it (buy try on your own twice, first).
3. Respect yourself and your class members.
4. Respect the learning environment.
5. Take pride in your work.
6. Don't cheat.
7. Clean up after yourself. It's not fair to make me do it.
8. Follow all other posted school rules.

Referrals are rare. However, here is the progression of discipline:

1. Verbal Warning
2. One-on-one
3. Removal from class and/or referral

Bathroom Policy:

Use the bathroom in-between classes. If an emergency arises simply excuse yourself. *Grab the bathroom pass (empty milk jug) on your way out of the room. Do not ask to go during notes, group discussions or during directions. Only one person is allowed out of the room at a time.* Don't abuse this privilege or it will be taken away from you. Please also remember the *10/10 Rule*. No passes will be given during the first or last 10 minutes of class.

Homework/ Classwork Policy:

Students who are submitting late work (*due to excused absence*) have one day, or one day for each day absent (*whichever is greater*), to submit work unless i determine there are extenuating circumstances which necessitate an extension. *It is a best practice for you to make up tests within one week of the original assigned date.*

Intervention and Remediation:

The focus of instruction is to get students to achieve their full learning potential.

- When students demonstrate a lack of proficiency on standards they must receive intervention(s), which may lead to assessment retakes or alternative assignments.
- When students demonstrate a lack of mastery on standards they may receive intervention(s) that require them to attend office hours during the first thirty minutes of the lunch period on specified days.
- Each 9 week grading period, students shall have the opportunity to retake at least one summative assessment. All retakes require that the student attend office hours for intervention assistance in order to retake a test during office hours. Additional retakes shall be determined based upon individual student data.

Grading Practices:

Students and parents need timely and accurate feedback in order to effectively monitor learning progress.

- Best practice: Grade book should be updated weekly (*except in the case of extensive assignments or unusual circumstances*).

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- When a student’s score on a retake is less than the original score, the higher score should be used. Scores should not be averaged.

Letter grades are a reflection of the student’s level of academic achievement on the courses’ performance standards as defined in the high school curriculum guides/maps. The following grade scale shall be used to determine a letter grade and the following quality point system shall be used to determine grade point average and honor roll:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Range</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	90-100	4.0	Outstanding Progress (Mastery)
B	80-89	3.0	Above Average Progress
C	70-79	2.0	Average Progress (Proficiency)
D	60-69	1.0	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0-59	0.0	Failure
I		0.0	In progress toward grade level proficiency in skills and concepts

****Important Note:** Grades are earned, not *given*. Please do not ask why I “gave” you a specific grade. Also, grades are cumulative. It takes approximately nine weeks to create your grade. Therefore, it is simply not possible to create a desirable grade during the last week of the quarter.

Class Participation:

All students are expected to take an active part in the learning environment of the classroom. This means coming to class on time and being prepared to learn. No heads allowed on desks unless you are obviously sick. I understand you stayed up late last night, but guess what, I did too, and my head is not on my desk. If it were, I would be fired because I’m at work. Guess what, you are at work too.

Academic Dishonesty:

The Volusia County School Board’s Code of Student Conduct has defined Academic Dishonesty as a level II offense. Academic Dishonesty is defined as *“Dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the school district. Such behavior may result in reduction in grades, classroom discipline as determined by the instructor, suspension or expulsion from school and/or school activities including student organization.”*

In short, to plagiarize means to use someone else’s ideas as your own. Just don’t do it.

*****This syllabus must be signed and returned by the following date:**

____/____/____



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

My goal is to make this semester a productive and successful educational experience for your child. Please take a few minutes to review the information contained within this syllabus. Your student and I have discussed these expectations at length, and it is imperative that you are in accordance with our rules and procedures as well. I encourage you to visit our class website often, as you will find a calendar and many of the assignments we are completing in class. I also encourage you to sign up to receive reminder texts via Remind. Directions to join Remind and my contact information can be found at the top of the first page. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian McClary

New Smyrna Beach High School
Social Studies Department

<http://mrmacsocialstudies.weebly.com/>

VERIFICATION OF PARENT & STUDENT NOTIFICATION PLEASE RETURN THIS LAST PAGE FOR A GRADE!

I have read and fully understand the expectations and rules set forth for Government. Furthermore, I am aware that failure to comply with any or all of these policies will result in the outlined consequences.

Student Signature

Period

Printed Name

Date

Parent Signature

Printed Name

Date

Phone #s to reach parents during the day: (C) _____ (H) _____

Parent's email address: _____