



American National Government

2018-2019

Bryan Swygart
Email: bswygart@msd134.org
Phone: 585-6657 ext 821
School Website: <http://mhs.msd134.org/>

Course Description

This American Government course provides students multiple opportunities to develop an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States, to develop civic commitment and capacity, and to build a well-informed, thoughtful response to the question: What is the proper role of government in our democracy? The goal of the course is to demonstrate that a more hands-on and minds-on course can produce better results in the following: success on the exams, coupled with deep conceptual learning, a greater passion for the political process, engagement in learning, and appeal to a wider range of students. This course is project-based learning at its best. The concepts covered are designed to prepare students for successful completion of the U.S. Government & Politics course.

Course Objectives

Craft and Structure:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines *faction* in *Federalist* No. 10).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.5

Analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.6

Evaluate author's differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.8

Evaluate an author's premises, claims, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.10

By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Course Units

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Principles/Origins of Gov. Constitution/Federalism Voting/Political Parties Mass Media	Electoral Process Legislative Branch Executive Branch	Judicial Branch Civil Rights/Liberties Foreign Affairs	State and Local Comparative Government

Materials

Notebook
Pen/Pencil
Laptop

Skyward Grading

Score Method	Term Grades (MHS Policy)	Grading Scale (MHS Policy)
Weighted Grades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formative 30% (Daily Work) * Summative 60% (Test, Projects, Quizzes, major assignments) * Participation 10% (Warm Up, discussion, punctuality) 	Fall Quarter 1=40% Quarter 2=40% End of Course Assessment=20% Spring Quarter 3=40% Quarter 4=40% End of Course Assessment=20%	A=90%-100% B=80%-89% C=70%-79% D=60%-69% F=Below 60%

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS - Required

- * Attend a minimum of ONE Middleton City Council meeting ONE Middleton School Board meeting within the year for a total of 2 meetings (Out of town meetings are ok) Sign up in Mr. Swygart's room (2114)between classes
- * Minimum of 1 per semester
- * Must attend for 1 hour
- * Must be signed by an official member of the meeting
- * Assignment (Equivalent of a test score and is required for graduation)
 - * Signed agenda by a member of the meeting
 - * Attach 200 written summary/opinion to agenda
 - * Due within ONE WEEK of the meeting date or full credit will be lost
- * A 2nd meeting per semester is allowed for extra credit

Make-Up Work (MHS Policy)

Papers, assignments, tests, etc. that were announced while the student was in attendance prior to the absence are due to be submitted or completed on the day the student returns to school. A student will be allowed two (2) school days for each day of excused absence to make up material presented during the absence. Make-up time is not to exceed ten (10) days from the time a student returns to school after an absence. Additional time may be granted at the principal's discretion under extenuating circumstances. When a student has been absent for three (3) or more consecutive school days due to illness or excused absence the parent or student may call the Attendance Office to request make-up homework be sent to the office for pick-up. Please allow 24 hours for teachers to respond before coming to the office to pick up work. **In the case of pre-arranged absences, it is the responsibility of the student to contact individual teachers for any make-up work prior to the absence.**

Late Work

- * Assignments turned in late will be recorded as 50% off. All missing work MUST Be turned in 2 weeks prior to the end of the Semester.
 - * **Missed Exams and Assignments:**
 - * Missed Tests/Quizzes will receive a ZERO until the Test/Quiz is made up.
-

Classroom Rules and Procedures

- Start your daily warm up or other work when you enter the room
- Check assignment board for the day's activities
 - Front of the room
 - Google Classroom
 - Seniors Corner
 - Extra credit
 - Scholarships
 - School board and City Council Meeting Dates
- Respect all members of the class
- Listening; not interrupting other students or teacher
- Positively participating in classroom activities
- It's all about the attitude!
- Refrain from using crude and vulgar language
- No throwing objects
- Social Studies department CELL PHONE POLICY
 - Middleton High School issued laptops (1:1 program) for student use which makes the use of cellphones during class time a non-negotiable, unnecessary accessory. Due to the increasing amount of distractions, behavioral issues, cheating, and non-educational use which cell phones are causing in the classroom, cell phones will **not** be allowed in Mr. Swygart's classroom. With parents/guardians' permission, students will be required to relinquish their cell phone into a cell phone storage container at the start of class . . Students will not be able to access the cell phone storage container except at the beginning and end of class with teacher permission. If a parent/guardian chooses not to allow their son/daughter to store their cell phone

in the storage container, cell phones must remain out of sight in the classroom and will be sent to the front office (when convenient for Mr. Swygart) if this is not followed. All cell phones that are sent to the front office can only be picked up by a parent/guardian after school.

Discipline

Discipline

The utmost goal in my classroom is to function in an atmosphere of hard work, cooperation, collaboration, honor, integrity, and respect. With that in mind, the following policies will be enforced within my classroom this year:

Behavioral Consequences - “Three Strikes”

In an effort to curb the frequency and severity of discipline issues in my classroom, I will be employing the “Three Strikes” rule. Violations of my classroom rules and expectations listed above, as well as MHS Building and District guidelines outlined in the MHS Student Handbook, will be addressed and documented as they occur. As soon as three (3) infractions occur, the student will be assigned to one day of In School Suspension (ISS). While they are in ISS, the student will have the opportunity to make up class work, quizzes, and/or exams so that they stay current in the class. Parents will be notified when and why ISS will occur.

Personal Electronic Devices (Cell Phones/Ipods/E Readers/Etc.)

Middleton High School issued laptops (1:1 program) for student use which makes the use of Personal Electronic Devices (PED) a non-negotiable, unnecessary accessory. Due to the increasing amount of distractions, behavioral issues, cheating, and non-educational use which PED are causing in the classroom, students will be required to relinquish the PED into a PED storage container **when the PED becomes visible and a distraction to the learning process (teacher discretion)**. Students will be encouraged to store their cellphones in their own backpack during the class period; storage in the cell phone holder can be voluntary (student’s discretion) or directed by the teacher after the cell phone has been determined to be a distraction (teacher’s discretion). Once a student has been directed to store the PED in the PED storage container, the student will be required to store it the entire year. The PED storage container will be under the sight, supervision, and management of the teacher at all times. Students will not be able to access the PED storage container except at the beginning and end of class with teacher permission. *Note: Students who opt-out of the 1:1 laptop program will also have to relinquish PED upon entering the classroom and will be allowed to utilize technology in the library or other computer lab as needed.*

Academic Integrity (MHS Policy)

All work submitted by a student must represent his/her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. All material found during research must be correctly documented/cited to avoid plagiarism. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing on course assignments or exams will

lose credit for that assignment or exam. The teacher will notify parents. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, including a parent conference.

Student & Parent Resources

School Website: <http://mhs.ms134.org/>

Google Classroom
