

COURSE OUTCOME:

- **Course Description**

- This class will begin with an understanding of the overall purpose of government. A focus will be placed on the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government (legislative, executive, and judicial) as well as the different levels of government (national, state, and local).

- **Hyperlink to local curriculum, state standards, and/or competencies**

- There is a hyperlink on my Fusion webpage to the Knox County Curriculum for American Government.

INSTRUCTION:

- **Topics/Competencies/Skills Covered**

- Week 1-2 Unit 1 – Foundations of American Government
- Week 3 Unit 2 – Political Behavior: Government By the People
- Week 4-5 Unit 3 – The Legislative Branch
- Week 5-6 Unit 4 – The Executive Branch
- Week 7-8 Unit 5 – The Judicial Branch
- Week 8 Unit 6 – Comparative Political and Economic Systems
- Week 9 Unit 7 – Participating in State and Local Government

- **Materials Needed**

- Pen or pencil, paper, folder or three-ring binder

- **Fees**

- There is no fee for this course

- **Resources**

- **School-based:** *Magruder's American Government*
- **Outside:** *30 Days* film clips, various news clips are used daily for current events, the movie *Dave*.
- **Statement concerning the option of alternatives for material deemed objectionable by parent/student.**

If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

ASSESSMENT:

- **Grading Policy**

- **Grading Scale:**
- A = 93 - 100
- B = 85 - 92
- C = 75 - 84
- D = 70 - 74
- F = Below 70

- **Grade Components:**

1. Daily assignments
2. Tests and Quizzes
3. End –of-Course Test (15% of total grade)

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- **Explanation of Assignments & Projects –**

- Daily Current Events, Presidential Campaign,

- **Make-Up Work Policy/Late Work Policy**

- Assignments are due on the day scheduled. Late assignments will result in partial credit. Assignments will not be accepted after the grading period in which they were due. (Student must ask within three days of absence for makeup work.)

- **Portal Post Policy**

- One way in which I am able to communicate with the student and parent is through Parent Portal. In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once per week.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- **Students:**

- **Classroom Policy/Procedures**

- Students should arrive in the room *before* the tardy bell rings. Students more than fifteen minutes late to 1st period must sign in at the office before reporting to class.
- Students must complete all assignments on their own. Cheating will be dealt with by school policies set forth in the student handbook.
- Students should treat the instructor and their fellow classmates with respect.
- Students should stay on task; any disruption will be subject to disciplinary action.

- **Teacher:**

- **Communication Strategy:**

- Contact time: 8:00-8:25 and 3:30-4:00
- Phone Number: (865) 689-9130 ext. 1110
- email: chuck.hughes@knoxschools.org (Email is the most efficient and easiest way to get in touch with me)
- website: www.gibbshs.knoxschools.org
- School Fusion: I will be updating my School Fusion website regularly.

- **Intervention Strategy – tutoring, extra help, etc.**

- I am available for makeup/tutoring before and after school.

Board Policy 1-431

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion-and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

- Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.

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