U.S. GOVERNMENT
(REGULAR & HONORS)

Overview
U.S. Government is a blended class, meaning that much of the course work will be posted to Canvas and students will upload their work to Canvas. We will use our class time to enhance the material being covered by having lectures, discussions, activities, projects, and testing. Students will need to join my TEAMS class to facilitate this course. Students should already be in the TEAMS class but if they haven’t done so, they should do this immediately.

It is the student's responsibility to check the TEAMS class when they are absent for any reason. If they have any questions, they are to see me when they return.

The intent of this course is to give students an overview of United States Government. Students will be asked to utilize prior knowledge, incorporate new information, and challenge preconceived notions as they think critically about past events and reflect thoughtfully on the future. Hopefully, the course will be engaging as well as challenging. The content will address various government concepts, as well as exploring individual perspectives. Various learning methods will be used throughout the course to ensure that the information will remain interesting and appealing to all students.

COURSE EVALUATION
Grading Scale
I reserve the right to numerically averaged the semester grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89 – 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79 – 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69 – 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 – 0</td>
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Teacher’s Authority to Override Final Grade: Teacher reserves the right to override the grade if a student’s overall performance warrants it. Proficiency is defined by the state of Florida and in the Student Progression Plan as 70% or higher. Mastery is defined as 90% or higher. This refers to the final grade of the grading period, or the final grade for the course.

Grades: The following is the grade distribution that is required by the Volusia County schools. Listed are types of assignments that will count under each weighted category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summative Assignments 60%</th>
<th>Formative Assignments 40%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Chapter Exams</td>
<td>• Homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Unit Exams</td>
<td>• DBQ Essays</td>
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<td>• Research project/paper</td>
<td>• Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• County End of Course Exams</td>
<td>• In class assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Interactive Student Notebook</td>
<td>• Class discussions</td>
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<td>• Projects</td>
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There will be an end of course exam administered at the end of the semester for a double-weighted summative grade.

**Summative Assessment Retakes:**
Students shall have the opportunity to retake a summative up to (2) weeks from the time the summative was given. In order to qualify for a retake on a summative the student must make an appointment with the teacher to discuss what the student must complete in order to qualify for the retake. For instance, in order to retake a summative, all formatives must be completed and submitted to me prior to the retake date. Retakes will only be administered during dates and times offered by teacher during lunch. Students will receive the higher of the two grades, as their final summative assignment grade.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations**
1. Students are expected to arrive on time to class with the appropriate school supplies.
2. Students are required to where their ID’s at all times.
3. **AT NO TIME ARE PHONES TO BE OUT DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.** A warning will be given once, after that, a referral may be given for violation of the “no cell phone” rule.
4. Students should demonstrate a respect for others.
5. No food or drinks allowed in class except for water.
6. All assigned work, notebook work, and quizzes/tests will be completed in pen (dark ink).

**Course Description**


**Units to be covered**
1. Foundations of American Government – chapters 1-4
2. The Legislative Branch – chapters 5 - 8
3. The Executive Branch – chapters 9 - 12
4. The Judicial Branch – chapters 13 - 16
5. Participating in Government – chapters 17 - 20

**Materials:** A five subject spiral notebook is recommended. In addition, students are required to always have pens and highlighters in class. It’s also recommended that they use index cards when reviewing for quizzes/test.

**Homework:** Homework will be given on occasion. However, in most cases, “homework” is to study and prepare for quizzes/tests.

**Absent Work:**
All absent work can be obtained from the teacher if not already posted on TEAMS and must be turned in on a timely basis. It is the job of the student to check TEAMS and to obtain all absent work upon their return to the classroom after their absence. All work assigned whether formative or summative must be completed and submitted before the unit test at the end of the current unit and before the start of the next unit. Once the next unit has begun, only the current unit work and retakes of summatives will be accepted. If absent on a day of an exam, student will need to plan to
make up the exam that was missed, but not to exceed one week from the date the exam was administered.

Please note that if you have more than 15 unexcused absences per year (which is what is allowed by law), then any work submitted late without an attached excuse note may receive no credit (it must be accompanied by an excused note, i.e., doctor’s note). You will need to be physically in class to be permitted to turn your work in that was due that day. Any questions pertaining to attendance should be directed to the Attendance Office.

**Tardiness:**
Students that enter class late will be marked “late” in attendance. Student will be permitted to enter class but please do so as quietly and respectfully as possible since class has already started. Student will be responsible for obtaining any information or work given prior to his/her arrival to class. No extra time will be awarded on tests or assignments if student arrives late.

**Academic Honesty:** The school policy regarding academic integrity and honesty will be enforced. Please refer to the Academic Integrity policy and your Code of Conduct booklet for details. If evidence of plagiarism is discovered by the teacher, the cheater and cheatee both will receive a zero for that assignment.

**DeLand High School Student Academic Integrity Policy**

In a world of ever-changing priorities one constant is the need for ethical academic standards. The guidelines presented in the policy below show student expectations regarding cheating, plagiarism and academic honesty. These guidelines and expectations cover all school related projects, reports, tests, quizzes and assignments whether in or outside of class. By signing this statement students acknowledge their understanding of the stated expectations and possible consequences.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary (http://www.m-w.com/) to plagiarize is:

“To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own: use (another’s production) without crediting the source. To commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.”

At DeLand High School plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
- Using another person’s words or ideas (written or spoken) without giving credit to the source.
- Copying and pasting material from any source including the Internet without giving attribution to the writer. You must put quotation marks around direct quotes and give credit in your works cited list.
- Changing the words or order of words from another source and submitting them as your own. Even with proper paraphrasing you must give credit to the source of the materials.

“When you use someone else's words, you must put quotation marks around them and give the writer or speaker credit by revealing the source in a citation. Even if you revise or paraphrase the words of someone else or just use their ideas, you still must give the author credit in a note. Not giving due credit to the creator of an idea or writing is very much like lying.”
Dr. Robert Harris - Virtual Salt Anti-plagiarism Strategies - http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary (http://www.m-w.com/) to cheat means: “to get something by dishonesty or deception.”
At DeLand High School cheating includes but is not limited to:

Copying an assignment from another person without explicit permission from the teacher. This includes sharing work that should be individually produced and includes obtaining answers from another student with or without their permission.

- Using, supplying or communicating with unauthorized devices with the intent of deception. This will include but is not limited I-Pad, calculator, camera, textbook, recorder, computer, phone, etc.
- Failing to follow teacher guidelines regarding collaboration, parent help, etc. Students will be expected to complete work independently unless specifically directed otherwise by the teacher.

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES:

First Offense: Second Offense: Third Offense:

Zero on assignment First offense consequences plus: 1st and 2nd off. Cons. Plus:
Parent notification Parent/student/teacher/ Referral to administration,
Referral to counselor, counselor conference, Suspension from extracurricular activities, elected offices and/or Senior privileges.

Contact Information:

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