



## Syllabus

**Course: Government & Economics**

**Year: 2020-2021**

Teacher: Melissa Beukema	Teachers: Mark McKenzie Dylan Woods-Weisman	Teacher: Patrick Scanlon
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Office hrs./ Availability: Flexible, by appointment only	Office Hours: See the <b>“Support”</b> section in your Google Classroom.	Office hrs./ Availability: Monday- Thursday by appointment

**Course Description/Overview:** The first half of the year the course focuses primarily on American government with a limited amount of time spent on Minnesota and international government. Students will study the three branches of government with special attention given to how each branch affects students’ lives. In the second half of the year, focuses on fundamental economics concepts like scarcity and supply and demand. This forms the basis for a later unit on personal finance intended to prepare students for the decisions they will make as adults about spending, credit, etc.

**Instructional Methods/Assessments:** Analyzing primary and secondary sources, formulating opinions grounded in evidence and multiple interpretations of the facts, discussion, direct instruction (for example, lectures and readings) cooperative group projects, and connections to current events.

**Required Materials:** A computer and daily access to the internet. Be sure to contact the school if either of these are not sufficiently available. Washburn will help you gain access to these resources. The Washburn phone number is 612-668-3400.

**Course Units and Summative Assessments:**

Government	Economics
<p><b><u>Purpose of Government</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration of Independence</li> <li>• Articles of Confederation</li> <li>• Concepts of Democracy</li> <li>• Characteristics of a State</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Participation in Government</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to Vote</li> <li>• Political Parties</li> <li>• Electoral Process</li> <li>• Media and Bias</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Rights and Responsibilities</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitution &amp; Bill of Rights</li> <li>• Amendment Process</li> <li>• Minnesota State Constitution</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Fundamental Concepts</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scarcity</li> <li>• Choice</li> <li>• Opportunity Cost/Trade-offs</li> <li>• Exchange Systems</li> <li>• Economic Systems</li> </ul> <p><b><u>United States Free Enterprise</u></b></p> <p><b>Broad Social Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Freedom, Efficiency, Equity, Security)</li> </ul> <p><b>Microeconomics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Supply &amp; Demand</li> <li>• Price Mechanism</li> </ul> <p><b>Macroeconomics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Indicators</li> </ul>

<p><b><u>Institutions and Political Process</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Branches of Government</li> <li>• Checks and Balances</li> <li>• Public Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monetary Policy</li> <li>• Fiscal Policy</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Personal Finance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banking</li> <li>• Loans</li> <li>• Credit</li> </ul>
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**Grading:**

**Grade Make-Up:** A percent total will be calculated across all tests and activities and a grade will be assigned based on the grade scale posted to the right.

**Missing & Late Work:** A due date will be set for each assignment. The final deadline for each assignment will be 48 hours after the original due date. For example, an assignment due at the end of class on a Monday would be accepted for credit until the end of class on Wednesday. Work will not be accepted for a grade after this 'grace period,' unless the student has communicated the need for an extension prior to the original due date.

Grade Scale	Summative Assessment	Formative Assessment	Grade Definitions
<b>A</b>	92.00 - 100%	5	Exemplary
<b>A-</b>	89 - 91.99%		
<b>B+</b>	86.00 - 88.99%	4	Proficient/Thorough
<b>B</b>	82.00 - 85.99%		
<b>B-</b>	79.00 - 81.99%		
<b>C+</b>	76.00 - 78.99%	3	Acceptable
<b>C</b>	72.00 - 75.99%		
<b>C-</b>	69.00 - 71.99%		
<b>D+</b>	66.00 - 68.99%	2	Developing /Seek Help
<b>D</b>	62.00 - 67.99%		
<b>D-</b>	52.00 - 61.99%		
<b>NC</b>	0 - 51.99%	1	Unacceptable/Seek Help

**Extra Credit:** No extra credit is offered.

**Re-Dos and Retakes:** Each instructor is available for study sessions. Students can request additional time with their instructor for re-learning. Students are required to demonstrate additional preparation before a retake will be offered. Students will be able to retake unit tests within two weeks of receiving their grade. Formative work may be redone for a higher grade up to the date of the summative assessment for that unit. Scores on redo's and retakes will be averaged. Extensions may be provided at teacher discretion.

**Missing Work Due to an Unexcused Absence:** Students may NOT submit work from an unexcused absence for credit. However, the work may be submitted for feedback. Students will have until the day of the unit's summative assessment to get the absence excused and complete the work.

**Plagiarism:** to steal or pass off the works or ideas of someone else's as your own or using another's work without crediting the source. Any student caught plagiarizing will receive '0' credit on the assignment or test. This could result in failing the course if the plagiarized work is summative.

Be cautious of *sharing* your work with others. You are responsible for ensuring the security of your work. Penalties can be given to the original student author in a plagiarism case.

*Grading modifications may be made for students with IEP or 504 plans.*