



## Syllabus

### Course: Government & Economics

**Year: 2018-2019**

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Office hrs/ Availability: Lunches by appointment	Office hrs/ Availability:	Office hrs/ Availability:

**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:** Students will need a *notebook or binder, folder, writing utensils (pens/pencils), & highlighters.*

**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><u>Broad Social Goals</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Freedom, Efficiency, Equity, Security)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Microeconomics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Supply &amp; Demand</li> <li>• Price Mechanism</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Macroeconomics</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Indicators</li> <li>• Monetary Policy</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>• 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:**

		<b>Grade Scale</b>	<b>Summative Assessment</b>	<b>Formative Assessment</b>	<b>Grade Definitions</b>
Formative Assessment 30%	Home-work	<b>A</b>	92.00 - 100%	5	Exemplary
	Class-work	<b>A-</b>	89 – 91.99%		
	Quizzes	<b>B+</b>	86.00 – 88.99%	4	Proficient/Thorough
Summative Assessment 70%	Unit Tests	<b>B</b>	82.00 - 85.99%		
	Paper	<b>B-</b>	79.00 – 81.99%	3	Acceptable
		<b>C+</b>	76.00 – 78.99%		
		<b>C</b>	72.00 – 75.99%		
	Presentation	<b>C-</b>	69.00 – 71.99%	2	Developing /Seek Help
	Discussion	<b>D+</b>	66.00 – 68.99%		
		<b>D</b>	62.00 - 67.99%		
<b>D-</b>		52.00 – 61.99%			
	<b>F</b>	0 – 51.99%	1	Unacceptable/Seek Help	

**Grade Make-Up:** Formative assessment will account for 30% of the course grade. Summative Assessment will account for 70% of the course grade.

**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. 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.

**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 summative 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 redos and retakes will be averaged. Extensions may be provided at teacher discretion.

**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.*



## Syllabus Government & Economics

I have read and understand the syllabus. I also agree to abide by the school-wide cell phone policy and the responsible use guidelines for all classroom technology (e.g. Chromebooks).

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature(s)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments to teacher:**