

Cosby High School
U.S. Government and Civics
Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

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Course Description

Students will study the purposes, principles, and practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution. Students will learn the structure and processes of the government of the state of Tennessee and local governments. Students will recognize their rights and responsibilities as citizens as well as how to exercise these rights and responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels.

General Education/High School Pathway Area

- This course meets one of the four required social studies courses required for graduation.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

- *McGraw Hill United States Government and Civics* by Richard C. Remy, Donald A. Ritchie, Street Law, Lee Arbetman, Megan L. Hanson, and Lena Morreale Scott; ISBN #: 978-0-07-687168-1

Recommended Texts & Other Readings or Resources

- Declaration of Independence
- U.S. Constitution
- Other readings, primary source documents, and political cartoons will be made available in class

Course Requirements

- Internet connection

Course Structure

This course will be taught via lecture, note-taking, debate, class discussion, simulation, and group activities with written and oral assessments. Lecture and student-centered activities utilize roughly equal time.

Part 2: Student Learning Outcomes

- Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of the American government as expressed in the Constitution and other essential documents of American federalism.
- Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the Constitution.
- Students summarize landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.
- Students analyze the scope and function of federal power.
- Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.
- Students evaluate the influence of the media on American political life.
- Students evaluate the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
- Students evaluate the fundamental values and principles of civil society, their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.
- Students analyze the development and evolution of civil rights for women and minorities and how these advances were made possible by expanding rights under the Constitution.
- Students analyze the influence of the federal government on the American economy.
- Students identify and explain the structure and functions of government at the state and local levels in Tennessee.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Collect data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
- Critically examine a primary or secondary source.
- Synthesize data from a variety of sources.
- Construct and communicate arguments citing supporting evidence.
- Develop historical awareness.
- Develop geographic awareness.

Part 3: Grading Policy

Grade Categories	
60%	Tests/Quizzes
40%	Classwork (projects, primary source readings, and activities)

Late Work Policy

Unless given specific permission from the teacher, students must turn their assignments in on time in order to receive full credit. The teacher reserves the right to deduct points on late work or refuse to take assignments turned in after the deadline.

Viewing Grades in ASPEN (optional)

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the ASPEN Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

The instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically within a week of the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your ASPEN home page under the link to this course.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
B	85-92%	Good Work
C	75-84%	Average Work
D	70-74	Poor Work
F	0-69%	Failing Work

Part 4: Course Policies

Attend Class

Students are expected to attend all class sessions as listed on the course calendar. If a student is absent for any reason, they are responsible for getting their own make-up work, including the day's notes from a classmate or the class website.

Participate

This class will have many interactive activities that involve both student solo and group work. A class participation grade will be taken at the end of every week, and will be based on student attention in class, following directions, note-taking, and participation in class activities.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let the teacher know as early as possible. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your teacher when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty.
2. If the teacher believes that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, they are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved when possible. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), the teacher may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate. If the teacher concludes that a student engaged in an act of academic dishonesty, the student will receive a grade of zero for that assignment or activity.

Student Testing Code of Ethics and Security

It is important for you as a student to know that the following guidelines are to be strictly followed. This year the TNReady EOC test will count at least 15% of your final semester grade. Your work on this test is very important and it deserves your best effort.

I understand that during testing on the days of the assessment, I am responsible for:

- Not having any electronic devices on me or in my purse/backpack/pockets
 - Including but not limited to cell phones, smart phones, smart watches, etc. **during testing or during breaks.**
 - Best practice is for students to leave devices at home or in their lockers on the day of testing.
 - If I am caught with a device during testing or during breaks, my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of

my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

- Trying my best on the test
 - If I do not attempt to test (I give **no answers or randomly answer** questions) my test score may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.
 - The testing administrators and proctors in the testing environment will determine if no answers or random answering is taking place.
 - I will focus and put forth effort on the test .
- Being honest and not cheating
 - If I am caught cheating (taking pictures of the test, writing down and passing answers, talking to other students, looking on other computers, using software outside the testing platform), my test may be nullified, resulting in a zero as at least 15% of my semester grade, and any school level disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the administration.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in the classroom.

