

American Government and Georgia Studies

Syllabus 2019-2020

Instructors: Ms. V. Foster and Mrs. D. Green

Textbook: American Government (Pearson)

Course Description: American Government traces the development of the US Constitution which organizes and frames government at the national, state and local levels. Students will learn the foundation of the US Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Amendments, development of the three branches of government at the national, state and local levels, and the responsibilities of citizens.

Textbook: Georgia Studies (Clairmont Press)

Course Description: Students trace the history of Georgia in the context of the development of the South and the United States. The chronological focus of the course includes a geographic overview, earliest inhabitants of Georgia, foundation of Georgia in the eighteenth century through the state's development in the twentieth century. Students also examine the characteristics of state government, public issues and citizen rights and responsibilities. In addition, the students will explore contemporary and historical comparisons of state and national political institutions.

Course Outline:

1st Semester	2nd Semester
Unit 1- Foundations of American Government	Unit 1- Geography, Early People, Exploration
Unit 2- US Constitution	Unit 2- Revolution, Statehood and Westward Expansion
Unit 3- The Legislative Branch	Unit 3- Civil War, Reconstruction and the New South
Unit 4- The Executive Branch	Unit 4- The 20 th Century, WWI and WWII
Unit 5- The Judicial Branch	Unit 5 – Civil Rights to Modern Georgia
Unit 6- Civil Liberties & Civic Responsibility	Unit 6 – Personal Finance
Georgia State and Local Government included in all Units	Georgia Milestones Review for Georgia Studies
American Government Final Exam for High School Credit in December	

Grading Policy:

Classwork: 50%

Tests, Quizzes and Projects 30%

Warm-Ups and Homework: 20%

Homework:

Brief homework assignments are to be expected. Homework usually consists of out-of-class readings or reviewing that day's lesson. However, it may not be on a regular basis, as students will be engaged in short-term and long-term projects. Homework occasionally may be taken for a grade. The expectations are that the assignments are complete and accurate. Students are expected to have their assignments the day they are due. In addition, all work must be legible and properly identified by assignment. Assignments are given to prepare for large-scale unit assessments. It is the student's responsibility to do the assignment in order to prepare for unit assessments. Missing or incomplete assignments may result in low or failing assessment grades. In addition to regular written assignments, students will need to study for upcoming tests and quizzes.

Special Projects:

There will be one major project per nine weeks. Each unit of study can culminate in a variety of minor projects designed to engage the gifted learner in analysis of information, interpretation and evaluation of data. The contents and scope of projects are at the discretion of the individual teacher. At times, projects may represent the assessment for a unit of study replacing a "traditional" unit test.

Teacher/Parent Communication:

Parents may contact the teacher at school by calling or e-mail. Inquiries will be returned by the next business day. Parents will be notified of Parent and Literacy Nights by phone calls and letters sent home. In addition, face-to-face conferences may be requested to discuss a student's progress or behavior.

Absence Make-up Policy

Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to make-up work. **The student must complete make-up work within 5 school days when returning from an absence.** The student will receive the actual grade on the make-up work if the absence was "excused". Make-up work for "unexcused" absences may be reduced up to ten points.

Classroom Management:

Students are expected to act responsibly and respectfully at all times. I expect my students to come to class prepared and ready to begin class at the bell. Each student is to use proper etiquette in listening to his/her teacher and fellow classmates. Consequences will follow the school wide discipline policies and procedures established by RCBOE. **(see student code of conduct for further information)**

Cell Phone Policy: Students are not allowed to use cell phones in the school. Each student will have access to laptops for classroom use. If there is sudden illness or an emergency the school nurse or office will allow the student to call home. Any messages to your child concerning transportation changes please call the front office.

Academic Honesty: means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge without properly acknowledging the source.

I acknowledge that I have read the information included in the 8th Grade American Government and Georgia Studies syllabus.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent telephone # and email address _____