

**Westside High School**

**Mr. Smith**

**ROOM 157**

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

Why study American Government? American Government is a course that is designed to provide students with the skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically challenges of understanding American democracy. Issues to be learned include the historical and philosophical foundations of American democracy, Constitutional structure, Constitutional theory, the amendment process and the historical events surrounding our Constitutional amendments, and the defining and evolution of what American citizenship means. Be prepared to learn to budget your time and work hard.

**MATERIALS**:

* Notebook or Binder
* Pencils/Pens
* Colored Pencils or Markers
* Note cards
* Highlighter
* Dividers (Optional)

 **UNITS OF THE COURSE:**

UNIT 1-Connecting Themes

UNIT 2-FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

UNIT 3-THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

UNIT 4-THE FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

UNIT 5-CIVIL LIBERTIES & CIVIL RIGHTS

UNIT 6-LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

UNIT 7-EXECTIVE BRANCH

UNIT 8-ELECTION PROCESS & CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

UNIT 9-JUDICIAL BRANCH

UNIT 10-GEORGIA GOVERNMENT & STATE CONSTITUTION

UNIT 11- AMERICAN IDEALS OF FREEDOM & DEMOCRACY

**CLASS WEBPAGE:**

ALL due dates, test/quiz dates and any other pertinent information will be placed on the class webpage, Canvas, and on the classroom board.

**TECHNOLOGY:**

 Technology, including laptops, tablets, and cell phones, may at times, designated by the teacher, be used for instructional purposes.

**IF STUDENTS ARE DISTRACTED BY THEIR PHONES, THEY WILL PLACE THEM IN THE PHONE HOLDER AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM UNTIL THE CLASS PERIOD IS OVER.**

**ATTENDANCE**

Get notes and assignments from a classmate. \*If you check out, your assignments are due before you leave school. \*\*All work turned in after the due date will receive a 5-point reduction in grade for each day late unless the absence is excused. \*\*\*If you are absent on the day of a test, you must take a makeup test after school within two days of your return to school IF the absence is excused. \*\*\*\***The WHS tardy policy will be strictly enforced.**

**GRADING RUBRIC**

Your grade will be based on the percentages outlined by the Richmond County Board of Education. Grades will be averaged from a combination of **Major Assessments and Minor Assessments.**

* **Minor Assessments will count for 60%:** quizzes, labs, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards.
* **Major Assessments will count for 40%**: unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, and other culminating assessments.
* **Late Work Policy:** Grades are due one week prior to Progress Reports. No late work will be accepted from the 1st 6 weeks after Progress Reports come out. The same goes for the second semester with late work.
* **Relearn and Reassess:** Students are allowed to re-take Major Assessments after following the Relearn and Reassess procedures. Students ARE NOT allowed to re-take Minor Assessments!

**GENERAL POLICIES**

1. Ask questions, voice opinions. Relevant participation is much appreciated.
2. Movies and videos will be shown only if they are good quality and connected to the Georgia Standards of Excellence
3. STAY CAUGHT UP AND ORGANIZED IN CLASS!

**DAILY CLASSROOM RULES**

1. **Coming to class with necessary materials**
2. **Arriving to class on time**
3. **Remain in assigned seat**
4. **DO NOT bring food or open drinks into the classroom**
5. **NO CELL PHONES OR ANY ELECTRONICS ALLOWED UNLESS BEING USED FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TIME!!**

**CONSEQUENCES OF RULE VIOLATIONS:**

1. **Teacher conference with student**
2. **Phone call to parents**
3. **Student remains after school for teacher detention**
4. **Refer problem to guidance counselor**
5. **Refer problem to administration**
6. **Serious infractions and persistent behavior problems will result in immediate referral to the administration**

**COMMUNICATION:**

I will communicate using Band App as sometimes there are issues with Remind, please scan the Code below to join our class for updates and information.

**TO PARENTS:**

Please read this syllabus carefully. If you have any concerns, I may be contacted through WHS Guidance Department or at the email address listed below

SmithJa3@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Thank you,

Mr. Smith

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return it to Mr. Lamkin. Your child will receive this syllabus back for reference. It is also posted online.**

Please initial the below statements:

\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) the parent/guardian of the below student have accessed online, read, and understand the contents of the syllabus for Coach Beasley’s History course.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) understand the expectations of the student in the classroom and outside the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I(we) am aware how to access the Week At a Glance (WAG).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) give permission to show school appropriate movies and/or excerpts of movies that align with the Georgia Standards of Education to enhance the educational experience and understanding of a given historical event or topic.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Printed): ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (signed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_