

SYLLABUS (Fall 2025)

American Government and Civics

Mr. Tyndall in Room 809

tyndatr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Students are responsible for bringing a composition book, loose-leaf line paper, and black or blue pens. The textbook for this course is **provided** by the Academy of Richmond County.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide a strong academic background for motivated, responsible students who are reading and writing on or above grade level. The course centers on a study of United States Government, beginning with various theories of government and working our way up to government on the local, state, and national level. Vocabulary study is mandatory.

This course follows a routine cyclical pattern for each unit. Lecture → Activity → Lecture → Activity → Project → Test.

Unit Outline

Unit 1: Connecting Themes

Unit 2: Foundations of American Government

Unit 3: The United States Constitution

Unit 4: The Federal System of Government

Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 6: The Legislative Branch

Unit 7: The Executive Branch, Federal Bureaucracy, and Foreign Policy

Unit 8: The Election Process and Civic Responsibility

Unit 9: The Judicial Branch and Criminal Justice Process

Unit 10: Georgia Government and the State Constitution

Unit 11: American Ideals of Freedom and Democracy

Late Work

Assignments will be accepted with a 5% grade reduction for each school day late, up until 5 days. After 11:59 of the fifth day, the assignment will close, and no more submission will be accepted. For example, if a Canvas assignment is due Monday, January 5th, it will be open until Friday, January 10th at 11:59pm -- weekends will not count, school days only. This applies to both digital and physical work. Any assignments not submitted during that time will be entered into the gradebook as an "M" for missing.

Exceptions to this policy *may* be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Discipline Policy

The discipline policy of the Richmond County School System will be adhered to. The first violation will be recorded and the student will be advised on how to correct the situation. The second offense will be documented and a parent or guardian will be contacted. The third violation will be referred to an administrator.

Methods of Evaluation/Distribution of Grades

Students will have numerous opportunities to demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully master the objectives of the course. Assignments include but are not limited to: homework, quizzes, major tests and projects, notebook checks, etc.

Grades in my class are weighed in the following manner:

MAJOR (Tests, Projects, Essays, Papers)	40%
MINOR (Classwork, Quizzes)	60%

Reassessment

Students may request to be reassessed on Major Tests. Students must follow the ARC Reassessment Policy and submit a written reassessment request/plan to their teachers AND parents. Any reassessment on Major Grades must be done after school and within seven days of the original assessment, at the discretion and convenience of the teacher.

Final Exam

There is no EOCT or Milestone Test for this course, however there IS a final exam. Students who have a final average of 90 or better at the end of the semester may exempt the final. I will not award unearned points to boost your grade; if you do your best, you will succeed in this class.

Tutoring

If any of you are having difficulties with course material, we may be able to set-up additional time for us to meet and discuss academic material. I will need a few days notice beforehand; I cannot tutor you the same day that you ask me.