Glenn Hills High School

**Teacher**: William Cunningham  
**Email:** CunniWi@BOE.richmond.k12.ga.us

**School Phone Number:** 706-796-4924

**Room Number:** Room 219

**Tutoring Hours**: Mondays by Appointment

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide students with a practical knowledge and deeper understanding of American government and its vital connection to everyday life. Aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence, the curriculum emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and empowers students to recognize their role in the democratic process as active, informed citizens of the United States.

Students will explore the foundational principles of the U.S. Constitution and examine how the American system of government functions at the local, state, and national levels. Through analysis, discussion, and application, students will develop an understanding of how government impacts individuals and communities, and how citizens influence government through participation and responsibility.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Apply knowledge of the U.S. Constitution to real-world scenarios.
* Demonstrate how the structure and functions of government affect policy and society.
* Understand the balance of power between federal, state, and local governments.
* Analyze the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society.

This course not only builds civic literacy but also encourages students to become engaged participants in our constitutional democracy.

**Course Requirements**: Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning by staying engaged, organized, and completing all assigned work on time. The following expectations apply throughout the course:

* **Daily Class Assignments:** Classwork will be assigned **daily** and will reinforce key concepts related to American government and civic engagement.
* **Bellringer/Activation of Learning:** Each day will begin with a **bellringer or activation activity** to review prior content or introduce new material. Students are expected to complete these at the beginning of class as part of their participation grade.
* **Weekly Study Guides:** Study guides will be distributed weekly to support content review and preparation for quizzes and tests. These must be completed independently and brought to class for review.
* **Homework:** **Homework will be assigned regularly** to reinforce learning outside of class. Students are expected to complete homework by the given due dates.
* **Current Events:** Students must submit a **current event assignment every Friday.** These assignments will help students connect course content to real-world issues and develop their critical thinking skills.
* **Class Participation:** Active participation is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to contribute to discussions, engage in group work, listen respectfully to others, and stay focused during instruction and activities. Participation will be factored into students' overall grades.

Students are responsible for completing all work on time and should check in with the teacher or class platform for updates if they are absent. Consistent participation and preparation are key to success in this course.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. **Be Respectful**  
   Treat your teacher, classmates, and yourself with respect at all times. Listen when others are speaking and use appropriate language and behavior.
2. **Be Prepared and On Time**  
   Come to class on time with all necessary materials. Be ready to engage in learning as soon as the bell rings.
3. **No Cellphones or Unauthorized Electronics**  
   Cellphones and other electronic devices must be **off and out of sight** during class. Cellphone usage will result in consequences.
4. **No Food, Drinks, or Gum**  
   To maintain a clean and distraction-free learning environment, **no food, drinks (except water), or gum** are allowed in the classroom.
5. **Follow Directions the First Time Given**  
   Pay attention and follow all instructions promptly. This helps keep class running smoothly and ensures everyone can focus on learning.

**Consequences:** Warning → Seat Change → Parent Contact → Referral  
**Rewards:** Homework Passes, Raffles, Class Shoutouts, Student of the Week

**\*Immediate referral to administrator for severe offensives.**

**Grading & Policies**

* **Daily Assignments & Bellringers – Participation and review of key content**
* **Weekly Study Guides & Homework – Reinforce learning and prep for tests**
* **Current Events Fridays – Connect government to real life**

**Grading Scale:**

* **Minor Grades (quizzes/classwork) – 60% (5 minimum per 6 weeks)**
* **Major Grades (tests/projects) – 40% (2 minimum per 6 weeks)**

**Late Work: -5% per day, max 25% deduction; teacher discretion after 5 days  
Make-Up Work: Days to submit = days absent  
Cheating/Plagiarism: Automatic zero + parent contactSupplies:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Binder** | Composition Notebook or Spiral | Laptop | College Ruled Paper |
| Pen and Pencils | Highlighters | College Ruled Paper | Dividers |

**\*\*A three-ring binder with paper or a two-subject notebook will suffice for note taking. \*\*+**

**Acknowledgment Form**

**Government Class – Syllabus Agreement**

I have read and reviewed the course expectations, policies, and procedures for the Government class. I understand the classroom rules, grading policies, academic expectations, and behavior guidelines outlined in the syllabus.

By signing below, I acknowledge my understanding and agree to support these expectations throughout the school year.

Please return **this page only** to Mr. Cunningham

**Student Name (Printed):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:**

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

**Parent/Guardian Name (Printed):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Signature**