

American Government 150E/350 Sheltered for English Learners

Instructor: Mr. Thomas Johnston
Prep Period: 1st and 7th periods

Room: 334E **email:** thomas.johnston@slps.org
Website: <https://www.slps.org/Domain/2420>

Course Description and Textbook

American Government will examine the foundations of government and law in the United States and the state of Missouri. Students will also examine how local, state, and federal governments operate. Studying both the historical foundations and the workings of government will help students engage in discussion and debate of relevant civic issues that affect their community and the nation. In that way, the course will help foster engaged and responsible participation in American society. The course may also help those students who are preparing for the American Citizenship exam.

An emphasis of this course will be preparation for the End-of-Course Exam. Finally, *American Government 150E/350* will compliment the student's studies in Communication Arts, Literature and Composition, by developing skills in reading, research, and writing. No prerequisites are required.



Textbook: *United States Government: Principles in Practice*. Holt McDougal, 2012 and other resources online and in Teams

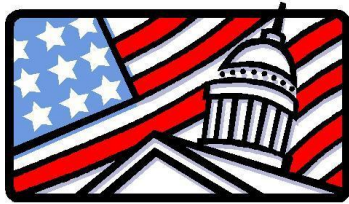
Main Course Goals



- 1. to **survey** American Government
- 2. to **examine** local, state, and federal government
- 3. to develop skills in **research**
- 4. to expand **academic language**
- 5. to **prepare** for college or other further studies

Instructional Methods

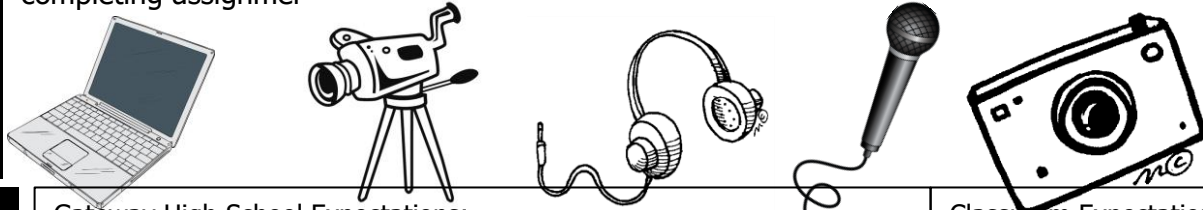
- The Instructional methods will vary but will include:
1. lecture and note-taking
 2. a variety of assignments involving reading, writing, speaking, and listening
 3. individual work and group work
 4. research projects and oral presentations
 5. analysis of primary source documents and images
 6. viewing video documentaries and listening to digital audio
 7. the methods and strategies of the Sheltered Instruction Observational Protocol (SIOP)



American Government 150E/350 Sheltered for English Learners

Technology

Technology will be used by both teacher and students in a variety of ways including PowerPoint, digital photography, digital audio, and video. Technology and multimedia will be used to deliver instruction. Students will also use technology and multimedia when making presentations and completing assignments.



Expectations

Gateway High School Expectations:

1. Be in your assigned seat/area, ready to work when the bell finishes ringing.
2. Have paper, pencils/pens, books and all needed supplies every day.
3. Keep hands, feet, books, and objects to yourself.
4. No profanity, rude gestures, teasing, or put downs.
5. Follow directions of the Student Discipline Handbook and all school adults unless the request is illegal, immoral or unsafe.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Follow all school rules and Gateway expectations.
2. Actively participate in class.
3. Submit homework and assignments on time.
4. No food or drink in classroom

Materials and Grading Methods

Students need a blue or black pen, a pencil, and a notebook or folder to keep class notes and hand-outs organized.

All assignments, quizzes, and tests will be on a points basis. Grades will be calculated on percentage of total points using the standard grading scale of SLPS. Your average will be your points over the total possible.

Grading Scale:

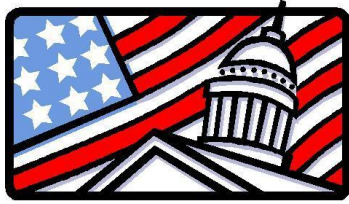
- 90 – 100 = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- 0 – 50 = F

Assignments will vary but will include daily DO NOW activities, worksheets, vocabulary work and other class activities, homework assignments, quizzes, projects, and tests. The points for assignments will vary according to the assignments. Daily Grades (DO NOW, class work, and homework) will be worth 5 to 20 points. Quizzes are 10 to 50 points. Tests and projects are 50 to 200 points. Quizzes will be given weekly. Tests will be given about 3 times each quarter. Students should expect a pop quiz at any time. A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of each semester. The exam will be worth 10% of the semester grade.

Keep track of your homework in your planner. You are to email me if you miss an assignment and need to make up the work. You are responsible for all assigned work.

Class Policies

Students are expected to attend class daily and to fully participate in all class activities. Written work must legible and written in blue or black ink or pencil. All assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments will be accepted but at reduced credit. Students may take any quiz or test up to three times. Retests must be scheduled in advance and will usually be done before school. The student should expect a different version of the test or quiz each time. The grade on the test or quiz will be the average of all attempts.



2020-2021

American Government 150E/350 Sheltered for English Learners

Recommendations

To Succeed in Class: Strive for excellence, practice perseverance, and be inquisitive. To strive for excellence, do your best on assignments and in class activities. To practice perseverance, you should always complete assignments. If you miss class, make sure to make up any missing work. If you get a low score on a quiz or test, you should retake it. You may also complete extra credit assignments when they are assigned. To be inquisitive, ask lots of questions and actively work to understand all concepts and assignments. If you do not understand anything about the class, be sure to ask for clarification.

If you have questions: Students and parents are encouraged to frequently ask questions! Students or parents may contact Mr. Johnston directly by email. Parents may also feel free to contact one of our translators through the ESOL office.