

Course Syllabus

Course Title: Dual Credit American
Government (PS101)

Academic Year: 2009-2010

Originating School: Prairie Home
High School

Duration: Second Semester

Instructor: Mr. Dean Barker

School Phone: (660) 841-5296
(9:06-9:56; 3:15-3:30)

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Course Description: This course is an advanced study of the American government system, and students will be able to earn both high school and college credit for the class. This class is designed to provide students with an in-depth study of the structure and functions of national, state, and local governments.

Prerequisites: Students should have adequate reading and writing abilities, possess good listening skills, and have effective note-taking skills. Students must also meet any requirements established by the sponsoring college (Central Methodist University).

Expectations: Students will be expected to keep pace with reading assignments, participate in class discussions, and take notes during class. Any and all assignments are to be turned in on time.

Textbook: Government By The People: Basic Version (2001-2002 Edition); Burns, et. al. (Prentice Hall, 2002).

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class every day. Anything discussed in class may be material for exams, and some material may not be in your textbook. You will be allowed eight (8) absences for the semester (which does not include school-related absences) before losing credit for the class.

You must be present on test days. No make-up tests will be allowed without prior arrangement or doctor's excuse. Make-up tests will be different from regular tests (same material, different questions).

Course Work: There will be reading assignments each week, with quizzes most every week throughout the semester. Quizzes will cover material from the reading and/or lectures. Six tests will be given during the semester. The lowest test score for each student will be dropped at the end of the semester. Since the lowest test score will not be dropped until the end of the semester, it is in your best interest to thoroughly prepare for each test and do well.

Grading:
15 Quizzes x 20 points each = 300 points (30%)
5 Tests x 100 points each = 500 points (50%)
Class Participation (100 points per quarter) = 200 points (20%)

Course Outline

This is a rough estimate of the course schedule. It is meant to give you some idea of the pace we will be on over the semester, and to give you some indication of when tests will be. It is *not* written in stone.

Jan. 5	Course Introduction
Jan. 6-21	Part I: Constitutional Principles Chpt. 1: Constitutional Democracy Chpt. 2: The Living Constitution Chpt. 3: American Federalism
Jan. 22	Test #1
Jan. 25-Feb. 10	Part II-A: The Political Process Chpt. 4: Political Culture and Ideology Chpt. 5: The American Political Landscape Chpt. 6: Interest Groups: The Politics of Influence
Feb. 11	Test #2
Feb. 16-March 18	Part II-B Chpt. 7: Political Parties: Essential to Democracy Chpt. 8: Public Opinion, Participation, and Voting Chpt. 9: Campaigns and Elections: Democracy in Action Chpt. 10: The Media and American Politics
March 19	Test #3
March 22-April 15	Part III: Policy-Making Institutions Chpt. 11: Congress: The People's Branch Chpt. 12: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch Chpt. 13: Congressional-Presidential Relations Chpt. 14: The Judiciary: The Balancing Branch Chpt. 15: The Bureaucracy: The Real Power?
April 16	Test #4
April 19-May 6	Part IV: Rights and Liberties Chpt. 16: First Amendment Freedoms Chpt. 17: Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property Chpt. 18: Equal Rights Under the Law Chpt. 19: The Democratic Faith
May 7	Test #5
May 10-13	State and Local Government
May 14	Test #6

Known dates when class will not be held: 1/15, 1/18, 2/12, 2/15, 3/5, 3/10, 3/11, 3/12, 3/15, 3/31, 4/1, 4/2, 4/5, 4/30 (as of 1/5/2010)