



American Government

American Government introduces students to the basic principles of political science. American Government is a junior/senior level class which satisfies the Federal, State and MVHS requirements for graduation. **You must pass this class to graduate from MVHS.**

In this class you will be exposed to the foundations, structure and functions of our American political system. You will also be required to think and make judgments about the way our political system does and should work. This course is designed to foster your active participation in our democratic society and take advantage of the rights that belong to you as an American citizen.

The following are requirements for success in this course:

- I. **Attendance** – The MVHS Attendance Policy can be found in your handbook. Please be aware that being in class is essential to your success in this course. The MVHS tardy policy will be enforced.
- II. **Responsibility** – You are responsible for any and all work missed due to excused absences. Work missed due to unexcused absences will receive an automatic zero. Late work can receive at most half (50 %) credit. No late work in a unit of study is accepted after that unit's test. (See your teacher for their late work policy.)
- III. **Writing Assignments** – All formal writing assignments need to be typed, use appropriate citations within the text of your paper and include a Works Cited page. Assignments not following this criterion will not be graded and will receive late credit when resubmitted.
- IV. **Preparation** – Completing homework assignments and readings is essential. Being prepared gives you the opportunity to succeed on tests and quizzes. Not being prepared leads to poor performance and missing assignments. **In addition, inadequate class preparation will mean that you will not pass American Government and will not graduate from MVHS. WORK=GRADUATION.**
- V. **Participation** – You are expected to participate in discussions and group work, and be attentive to material being presented.
- VI. **Respect** – Respect the opinions and input of your classmates, their goals, and the goals of the teacher.
- VII. **Pride** – Take ownership of the things you produce, the knowledge you acquire and the skills you learn.
- VIII. **Honesty** – The MVHS Academic Honesty Policy is followed. Read it. Know it. All students may need to set up a *Turnitin.com* account.
- IX. **Classroom Rules** – Do what's right!
- X. "Grades are updated at a frequency that is appropriate for student learning and teaching. Some assignments may be graded, returned to students, and posted to the grade book quickly, in a matter of a few days. Other assignments may require longer grading cycles. Teachers will explain their individual updating cycles to students." (IPSD 204 grading timeline policy)

Course Syllabus

- I. Foundations & Rights
 - II. Political Socialization
 - III. Elections and the Campaign Trail
 - IV. Public Policy
 - V. The Judiciary
- **You will be expected to complete a Civic Engagement portfolio in order to pass the semester.**
 - **A comprehensive exam and debate will be given at the end of the semester valued at 20% of your semester grade.**

Semester Grade:

Semester Assignments/Tests/Project= 60%

Civic Engagement portfolio= 20%

Final (MC test + debate) = 20%



**Parent/Guardian
Signature Required**

I have read and understand the graduation requirements and expectations of American Government.

Student name

Parent/Guardian signature

date

The best way to contact me is:

____ Email My address is: _____

____ Phone My phone # is: _____