



**Nevada Union High School
American Government
2024-2025**

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Introduction:

Welcome Miners! I am looking forward to learning about American Government together. I will do my best to make this class interesting for you so that you can find joy in the learning process and I will learn from you too! How lucky for us that this is a presidential election year!

It is important to note that this class is meant to be disciplined and structured to provide you with an effective learning environment. I am hopeful that you will contribute to our learning environment by respecting your learning journey, as well as the learning journey of your classmates. This is achieved in part by having pride and integrity in ourselves so that we are sound citizens here, and in the world around us. It is also achieved by following the classroom norms that are listed below. Take honor in being trustworthy, in doing the right thing, and in doing your very best at all times. I do not want to micromanage you. Please do not mistake my being firm as not caring about you because I do!

You are walking into this class with an “A+” and it will be your choice to keep it. I do not give grades - you earn them. I am here to happily assist you in your academic success, but you are responsible for your education. Receiving an education requires commitment. This commitment includes developing patience, study skills, and steady attendance, which is vital to learning and your overall grade. I hope to see you as much as possible. These grades will follow you forever. Be wise in your choices.

We may encounter sensitive and/or controversial material regarding political issues. We must be respectful and fair. We want to be appropriate and understanding of other people's backgrounds, opinions, and identifications. Keep the following in mind:

- There will be respect for both sides of the political spectrum. There are respectful ways to disagree.
- We do not want to hurt people and we don't want to be silenced either. Everyone should feel safe!
- You want to know what's going on and be informed domestically and internationally. You will want to defend your arguments and positions intelligently.

Course Description:

This course covers important democratic concepts and philosophies that have shaped and continue to shape the United States Government. The United States government is structured around the Constitution of the United States of America which provides a democratic process and you will learn about the founding fathers and how their ideas have endured and carried this country through her history thus far.

Expected Learning Outcomes (ELO's)

ELO 1: Students analyze the characteristics of different political systems.

ELO 2: Students explain the fundamental principles of American democracy.

ELO 3: Students compare the powers of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.

ELO 4: Students analyze the roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government.

ELO 5: Students evaluate rights and obligations as democratic citizens.

ELO 6: Students evaluate campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

ELO 7: Students evaluate the influence of the media on American political life.

ELO 8: Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

ELO 9: Students evaluate the principles and values of a free and civil society.

ELO 10: Students formulate questions about liberty, equality and human rights and/or civil disobedience, the rule of law and civil rights.

Classroom Structure and Expectations:

- Be in your seat when the bell rings and prepare to immediately copy the agenda while attendance is taken. You will have three minutes to do so. Please note that if you are late, you must join the class immediately and not be disruptive.
- We are expected to have a quiet room unless directed otherwise (e.g., partner-shares, projects, etc.)
- Respect for our classroom is paramount. This is a learning environment and we want integrity at every level. This includes our behavior *and* cleanliness. I no more want to pick up after you at the days' end than you would want to pick up after me.
- We will be using Schoology.
- Please have a Vocabulary/Language of the Discipline (LOD) journal/notebook.
- Be organized as to help you locate your materials and for overall functionality. Come to class prepared.
- Teachers have the ability to monitor your internet/Chromebook use. Remember to not only stay on task, but to remain appropriate at all times.

- You are required to have respect for substitutes and to also keep our classroom clean and orderly. It is unfair for me to return and pick up after you.
- Please have respect for the puzzle table (if applicable).
- You are able to earn Miners Gold and shop from the classroom menu.
- Although the textbook is a major part of our class, you are expected to come to class with your assigned Chromebook charged every day.
- Do not abuse bathroom use. You will be using Minga for hall passes and extended use beyond the allotted time results in truancy and/or a contact home. If bathroom use becomes excessive, we will implement the plan that requires you to email your parents every time you want to use the restroom. This affects all students and can be rather unfair.
- If you are in need of a pen or pencil, you may either purchase one with your miners gold or exchange collateral for the duration of the class.
- We are on a block schedule with odd and even days.
- Cell phones are **NOT ALLOWED** in this class. No Googling, texting, or social media. If you need to look up a word, there are dictionaries located on the bookshelf.
- Earphones are not to be used any time in this class. Your full attention is necessary for proper learning.
- Please take the time to recycle. This means that plastic, aluminum, and glass are to be placed in the blue bin.
- Do not write in any books. We value books and want them for posterity. If the satellites were knocked out of the sky, you would be left with books!
- No plagiarizing! This means that you will not copy someone else's writing (including textbooks or the internet) and submit it as your own.
- Absences will affect your grade and passing this course is required for you to graduate.
- There is a blue basket that is designated to your class. If you have been absent, you are to check the basket. However, there may not always be an assignment in the basket. You may have missed an important lecture, visual presentation, quiz, reading, or a film/documentary. Be sure to ask me or a fellow student what you need to do to catch up.
- Late assignments are to be placed on the basket on the teacher's desk. PLEASE do not hand me late work, nor offer it to me when I am collecting current assignments.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will consist of two components: *participation* (includes assignments, projects and class discussions), and *assessments, and projects*.

- Participation = 70%
- Assessments/Projects = 30%