



United States Government

Coach Wylie, Coach Velten & Coach Haltom

2016-2017 School Year

### **Course Description**

This course provides the student with an understanding of the functions of the United States, Texas, and local governments. Topics include the foundations and development of the United States governmental system; the purposes, political and economic philosophies of the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence, the structures and functions of governments at the federal, state and local levels; and the responsibilities of American citizenship.

### **Course Objectives**

The frameworks found in the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS) will guide teacher instruction through out the course. Specific TEKS for the course can be located at:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/index.html>

and

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter118/index.html>

### **Teacher Information**

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### **Course Material, Text, and Readings**

#### **MATERIALS**

Required Materials: **Every Day**

- Textbook
- Writing Utensil
- **Notebook (may be left in class- Wylie)**
- Other ancillary materials as directed by teacher

**Textbook:**

US Government: Principles in Practice

The text can be accessed online or downloaded on to an iPad. The text can ONLY be downloaded to an iPad.

**Attendance/Tardies/ID/Dress Code**

All students in this class will be subject to all MHS policies as states in your MHS Student Handbook

**Electronics Policy:****iPad Classroom Management****Daily Procedure**

- Close all applications on your iPad upon entering the classroom. You may only have open the apps to be used in class during that specific class period. The opening of any additional app including any gaming, messaging or email feature will result in a disciplinary referral.
- When they are not in use, iPads need to be off the desk.
- iPads need to remain flat on your desk or slightly propped (using the stand) when in use so that your screen can be viewed by the teacher at all times.
- Make sure your device has the sound off. You will be instructed when it is necessary for the sound to be on. In that case, you will be asked to use headphones (see classroom materials).

**BYOD Policy** - Mansfield ISD has a BYOD policy in place; however, with access to iPads in the classroom daily, the use of any cellular device is only allowed with permission from the teacher. Having cell phones out in class without permission will result in disciplinary action.

**Scope and Sequence****1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks**

Unit I: Origins of Democracy

Unit II: Introduction to the U.S. Constitution

**2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks**

Unit III: Legislative Branch

Unit IV: Executive Branch

**3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks**

Unit V: Judicial Branch

Unit VI: Political Participation

### **Tutoring Schedule:**

Posted outside of each teachers classroom

### **Class Rules:**

All school policies as defined in the student handbook will be followed. It is the student's responsibility to learn this information. The most important things to remember are: be PUNCTUAL, PREPARED, POLITE, PRODUCTIVE & POSITIVE!

### **Available Student Services:**

The MHS library and Mansfield Public Library are both valuable available student services in terms of resources and computer access. If students need specific outside help in any way, he or she needs to talk to the instructor about these issues.

All students in this class will be subject to all MHS policies, as stated in your MHS Student Handbook

### **Grading Policy**

**Philosophy:** Given the premise that all students can learn, MISD administrators and teachers believe that grade reporting should focus on student growth and learning in a climate of high expectations. Instructional emphasis should be placed on the accomplishments of defined district goals. Grading and reporting should be both formative and summative in nature and should utilize both formal and informal processes. Schools are accountable for structuring learning experiences, teaching processes, planning and evaluations, an utilization of materials, resources, and time to result in optimum student learning. The Mansfield Independent School District educational stakeholders envision a learning experience for each student based on the fundamental premise of student success.

### **Weighted Categories:**

- Tests/Major Assessments will count 50% of each student's six-week grade.
- The remaining 50% will count as daily grades and will be completed during class time or as homework

### **Number of grades for regular class:**

Each six weeks will consist of at least EIGHT (8) grades with a minimum of TWO (2) counting as major assessments/tests.

### **Test Retakes-Minimum Requirements:**

Students will be given the opportunity to be successful. In the event a student fails to exhibit proficiency on the major assessment or tests, they will be encouraged to participate in the reteaching/retesting process designed and determined by the teacher.

Students will be allowed to demonstrate proficiency of learning objectives by means of a retest for a maximum of 70% of the original score possible. The retest format will be determined by the teacher.

Students will have to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or redo a major test/assessment. (This does not include final semester examinations.)

All retakes must be completed prior to the end of each six week grading period.

Mid term or final exams are not to be included in the retake/retest process.

### **Missed Exams/Assignments**

Late work will be accepted for any daily or minor grades at a rate of 15 points reduced for each day late, up to 3 days. Any missed assignments (major or daily) due to an excused absence must be made up within five (5) school days. Make-up work can not be completed during class-time; an appointment by the student will need to be made with the teacher.

### **Class Participation**

Student will not be graded on class participation. However, it is expected that students ask and be able to answer questions about topics. Any class behavior that is distracting in any way to the educational environment of the class will not be tolerated.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Acts of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating, and plagiarism) will be dealt with swiftly and severely. MISD rules on academic dishonesty are explained in the Student Handbook.