

## United States Government Course Outline [ 2007-2008]

The successful completion of this course is required for high school graduation. In other words, you must pass this class to graduate.

### Objectives:

1. To acquaint the student with how the historical developments in Europe helped to fashion the unique governing system in the United States. [ What European countries influenced the development of the United States government? ]
2. To acquaint the student with the main principles of American and European philosophical thought and their influence on United States government. [ What political philosophers influenced the development of the United States government? ]
3. To identify the principles of democracy as expressed in great documents and how those principles were realized or negated throughout United States history. [ What rights do I have as a US citizen ?]
4. To identify the unique contributions of Virginia and Virginians in the establishment of local, state, and national governmental institutions. [ What Virginia natives were influential in the creation of the US government? ]
5. To impress upon the student the importance of civic responsibility and the student's role in the community. [ Why should you participate in government? How can you participate in government? Does it really make a difference? Why should I care? Etc.....]

### Class Requirements and Responsibilities:

- Respect yourself and others at all times. [ Listen attentively to class discussion. Show respect for other people and their views. ]
- Only in case of emergency should you interrupt the class.
- Take care of your bathroom, locker, and counseling needs before or after class. \* Please bring a note from your parents if you have a condition ; whereby, you will need to go to the bathroom more than 4 times a nine weeks.
- Attendance policy - 3 tardies - Your name will be turned into the office. \* Remember the county policy on being absent for ten days.
- Bring all the writing equipment you need- sharpened #2 pencil and

a blue or black ink pen. \* Do not expect to return to your lockers during class time to get these items.

- Write notes and objectives daily.
- The following things are not to be brought into the classroom- cards, beepers, watches [with music or alarms], recorders, C-D players, cell phones turned on, etc.
- Please do not damage the wall, the computer table, my desk, your desks, or anything else in the room with graffiti.
- The phone and the computer are not for your personal usage.
- Leave the windows alone.
- If you need to eat, do your eating in the cafeteria during lunch.[If there is a reason you need to be eating during class, I need a note from your parents or notification from the nurse.]
- Seating- alphabetical order

**Make-up Work Policy: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT WHAT WORK YOU HAVE MISSED.**

- Check the blackboard.
- Handouts will be on top of the back bookcase. Get the handouts before or after class.
- Get the notes you missed from a classmate or me.
- Homework and classwork [ worksheets, notes , or activities done in class ] You have three days to make-up any work missed while absent from class. [ For example, if you are absent on a Monday and come back to class on a Tuesday, your make-up work is due to me on Friday of that same week. ]
- Test or Quiz - If you were in class the day before the test/quiz, you will make it up the day you return. If you were NOT in class the day before the test, you have three days to make it up. You will need to come in after school to make up the test. In any respect, high school policy is your work is to be make up in three days upon return for an absence unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Late Work Policy For Homework - \* This means you were in class and received the assignment but chose not to complete it. [ Not a good plan. ]

My philosophy on homework:

I usually assign homework for one of the following reasons:

- ★ To prepare you for the activities for the next day. [ If you are not prepared, you will not be able to positively participate in class discussion or activities.
- ★ To reinforce the material we covered in class.

Grading: Nine Weeks

Grading Scale is posted in your agenda and will stay posted on the blackboard throughout the year.

½ - tests, projects, or presentations that are 5 minutes or more in length  
½ - classwork, homework, presentations that are less than three minutes, class participation, and community service

Community Service:

15 DOCUMENTED HOURS EVERY NINE WEEKS

What is accepted:

A] Helping with any of the local volunteer fire departments, the rescue squad, clean up the bay project, clean up the hospitals, volunteer in the nursing home, do a school cleanup project, help in your church, help elderly people by cleaning their home, preparing their meals, during yard maintenance, etc., helping with the reading and tutoring programs at Northumberland Elementary School, helping with the relay for life, helping to maintain the front entrance of the high school, and giving blood.

\* TO GET CREDIT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK, YOU MUST HAVE AN ADULT WRITE A NOTE STATING WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU PERFORMED YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE/CIVIC DUTY, AND THE NUMBER OF HOURS YOU PERFORMED THIS DUTY. ALSO, THE ADULT NEEDS TO SIGN AND DATE THIS INFORMATION.

\*\*What is not accepted:

a] Any work or activity for which you have been paid or have received credit in another class.

Detention: After school - 3:05-4:05 pm

The following will cause you to stay for detention: Talking after the tardy bell, showing disrespect, generally not following class and school

rules.

I am available before and after school every day except Friday. You can reach me through e-mail [ [cjacobsen@nucps.net](mailto:cjacobsen@nucps.net)] and the school phone number - 580-5192, extension 105, if you need clarification of what we discussed in class, extra help, or have any questions about what you are studying, have studied, or will study.

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

WELCOME TO UNITED STATES

GOVERNMENT.