

Government

Syllabus

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Website: sites.google.com/apps4pps.net/marshfhs or bit.ly/marshfhs

There is a website available which will have links to all notes, videos, and any other materials we are using as a class. This should be the first place you look if you miss a day of class. It is highly recommended that this website is bookmarked in your phone!

Description: This is a Semester course in which we will be studying how the United States Government and how it functions. We will also be following current events. In this course we will be taking notes, writing essays, studying maps, watch videos, debate, discuss material, play games and much more.

Textbook: *We the People* (class set in the room)

Basic Requirements:

- 1) Attendance: If you are not in class you cannot learn! Show up to class on time and prepared. If you miss a day of class check the website BEFORE you talk to Mr. Marsh. If you miss notes you can find them on the website or get them from a friend.
- 2) Class Participation: Showing up to class and participating is how you will be graded. It is also a requirement to turn that work in or else it cannot be graded. You will be required to have a notebook. In your notebook you will keep all the notes, activities and reflection questions that we do in class. I will collect these notebooks and check to see that you have kept up with the daily work.
- 3) A Spiral-bound Notebook. This will serve as the place where you keep the majority of your work.
- 4) Outside of class you are required to keep up with current events. It is recommended that you should have the following apps on your device: BBC News and one of the following: Washington Post, New York Times, or NPR News. You may also have any other news source of your choosing. However, the ones listed are more objective sources.

Assessments: 40% of your grade is formative assessment which consists of daily work, notes, maps, news write ups, or any other handouts or activities.

60% of your grade is summative assessment which consists of essays, tests, presentations, and larger projects. The final will consist of a Congressional Hearing format presentation.

In order to do well in this class you need to do ALL the work!

Turn-in Policy and Late Work: I operate off of what I call “Notebookcheck Cycles” in which I collect notebooks and grade the work and notes taken in that time period. What is also due during this check cycle is all other work done during this time frame. What is in a notebook check is on my website (see above) and is in the Green Box for your class. Once it has turned yellow the Notebookcheck Cycle as begun and students have 5 school days to turn in work from the start till the close of the Notebookcheck Cycle. After that 5 day grace period all work is late and will only receive half credit (barring extenuating circumstances). I will not grade anything that is older than the last Notebookcheck Cycle.

Essays and Projects have their own check cycles which follow the same color coding on the website and work in the same way.

Homework: I do not assign a great deal of homework. Working on Essays and Projects are required to be completed on your own time. In terms of daily homework it is the student’s responsibility to answer the day’s essential question at the conclusion of class, this can be done in class (if time permits) or at home.

Learning Targets : The students will understand and make connections among topics that may include but are not limited to: the historical and philosophical origins of the United States Government, how the Constitution, the three branches of government, changes to the Constitution, people's' rights, partisan politics, and the challenges facing the country. In addition we will be addressing current events in class so it is important for students to keep up with the news.

Behavioral Expectations:

1. **Come Prepared.** This means bring any book we may be using, paper and pen or pencil and BE ON TIME!
2. **Turn work in.** On my website you will find a “Notebook Check Guide”. Green is current work, Yellow is due within 5 days, and Red is late and will not be accepted.
3. **There are no test retakes,** unless you have an official educational plan that allows for retakes. There will not be retakes as the tests are open note for everyone.
4. **Be respectful to others.** Listen when others are talking and be respectful to others while working whether that be independent work or group work. Any racist, sexist, transphobic, or homophobic remarks will not be tolerated.
5. **No headphones and No texting. Set all cell phones to silent. We will be following the school's cell phone policy.**

Grades

90% and above	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F