



Gadsden County High School

Class Syllabus

2020-2021

Course Information:

Class: United States Government (2106310)

Grade: 9-12

Room: 410

Instructor:

Instructor: Mr. Pierre L. Lewis

Email: LewisP@gcpsmail.com

Phone: (850) 366-3160

Course Description:

The grade 9-12 United States Government course consists of the following content area strands: Geography, Civics and Government. The primary content for the course pertains to the study of government institutions and political processes and their historical impact on American society. Content should include, but is not limited to, the functions and purpose of government, the function of the state, the constitutional framework, federalism, separation of powers, functions of the three branches of government at the local, state and national level, the political decision-making process, and civil liberties.

Course Goals/Expectations (Face-to-Face & Virtual):

After successfully completing this course, the student will...

- demonstrate an understanding of the elements of American Government
- demonstrate effective use of communication skills
- demonstrate effective use of planning and decision-making skills

Course Materials:

Textbook – McGraw-Hill's *United States Government*

Website – See teacher for Google Classroom code for your respective class period.

Supplies – Both Face-to-Face and Virtual students should bring the following to class each day: laptop, headphones, pencil, pen, loose-leaf notebook paper, and a composition book for notes. Other supplies (colored pencils/markers) may be requested for special assignments.

Absentees/Tardiness:

Rather Face-to-Face or Virtual, the regular presence and punctuality of students is necessary for successful completion of this course. Students must be in their seats before the tardy bell rings. If you are a virtual student, you should be in a quiet location and logged into the Google Classroom/Google Meet session at the start of class. When a student has been tardy or absent from class three times, parents will be contacted to determine and correct the problem. Appropriate school staff will also be contacted. **It is the student's responsibility to request makeup exams and missed assignments due to excused absences and/or tardiness.** Students have one day per absence to request and complete make up work, up to ten absences. Missed assignments should be completed

and turned in as instructed. Makeup work and tests may or may not be the same as original assignments. Please become familiar with attendance and tardy policies located in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

Classroom Participation:

Both Face-to-Face and Virtual students are expected to participate in all classroom activities. This includes discussions, written classroom assignments, project/group activities, oral presentations, quizzes, tests, etc. Students are also expected to complete and submit homework as assigned. **To reduce possible transmission of Covid-19, all assignments in this course will be issued and returned via Google Classroom.** All assignments will have a due date attached to them and Google Classroom will automatically mark it late if submitted after the announced deadline. **Except for tests/quizzes/projects, all other assigned work is due at the start of your class period. All late assignments are automatically deducted 10 points per day.** Please reach out to me if there is a personal situation happening that may prevent you from submitting the work on time. For your convenience, I have attached the 2020-2021 Bell Schedule.

GCHS 2020-2021 Bell Schedule

Class Period	Start	End
1st Period	8:10 a.m.	9:07 a.m.
2nd Period	9:12 a.m.	10:09 a.m.
3rd Period	10:14 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Lunch A	11:11 a.m.	11:46 a.m.
4th Period (A)	11:51 a.m.	12:48 p.m.
4th Period (B)	11:16 a.m.	12:13 p.m.
Lunch B	12:13 p.m.	12:48 p.m.
5th Period	12:53 p.m.	1:50 p.m.
6th Period	1:55 p.m.	2:52 p.m.

Projects (Face-to-Face & Virtual):

Both individual and group projects will be assigned during this course. Whether you are Face-to-Face or Virtual, you are expected to participate, complete, and present the project. We will go in greater detail once we approach the first major project.

Grading Policy:

Student grades will be calculated using scores from individual classroom assignments, class participation, quizzes, tests, project/group assignments, journals, and homework completion. Per Gadsden County Public Schools policy, the following standardized grading scale will be used:

A	90-100	Excellent
B	89-80	Good
C	79-70	Average
D	69-60	Unsatisfactory
F	59-0	Failing

The following grading rubric will be used.

- Bell Ringers – 10%
- Daily Assignments – 30%
- Quizzes (Announced and Unannounced) – 15%
- Tests – 25%
- Projects/Presentations – 20%

Classroom Behavior (Face-to-Face & Virtual):

Gadsden County High School is a community of learners. For any community to thrive, certain rules must be embraced. In this class students are expected to:

1. **BE RESPECTFUL** - All students will respect themselves, the instructor, their fellow students, and their learning environment. No food, gum, or cell phone usage is allowed. Again, no cell phones.
2. **BE READY** - All students must attend class every day and be ready to actively participate in daily activities. Readiness includes having all supplies each day.
3. **BE RESPONSIBLE** - All students must accept responsibility for themselves, their assignments, and their actions.
4. **BE HONEST** – Plagiarism will result in a grade of “0” for any given assignment.

Additional Classroom Behavior for Virtual Students:

5. **Your laptop camera should always be on.** I should see you as if you were physically in my class.
6. **The student should be in a quiet location, away from distraction.** If that isn't possible, please wear your headphones.
7. **Do not eat and drink during class.** If you were physically in school, you would not be eating and drinking during my class.
8. **Wear appropriate clothing.** You wouldn't come to campus in your pajamas; therefore, you should not come our virtual class in your pajamas.
9. **Please mute your laptop** when entering the virtual classroom meeting.

Face-to-Face students should not share any electronic devices.

The use of school laptops are only for school appropriate material.

Disclaimer:

I will respond to any emails/phone calls/text messages until 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 4 p.m. on Friday's. Anything after the stated cut-off time will be answered the next available school day.

All information provided is subject to change at the discretion of the teacher and without notice.