

## American Government

The 2013-2014 school year is a year of great change in Oregon Education. The following syllabus represents our best thinking of how to implement the changes at this time but some of the following may change as the school year goes forward.

### Course Description

This course will cover American Government from early origins and influences through the current system. The units will be as follows:

Origins and Influences  
Constitution  
Legislative Branch  
Executive Branch

Judicial Branch  
Citizenship  
Groups in Politics  
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Instructional Activities

The course curriculum will be covered using primary and secondary and tertiary reading source, video, lectures, class discussion, and group activities. There will also be a research component using a variety of sources.

### Standards Addressed

We will be using the Common Core Social Sciences and Oregon State Social Studies content standards. These will be shown in the Pinnacle grading program all year and account for 80% of your total grade.

### Grading and Assessment

20% DAILY WORK + HOMEWORK  
DO ALL THE DAILY WORK

Oregon House Bill 2220 requires student grades be calculated from summative assessments – examples include tests, labs, speeches, projects, or other measures of student learning. Coursework intended as practice for learning may be assigned and recorded in Pinnacle with a 0% weighting – examples include in-class assignments, homework, participation, and other learning activities. There will no longer be opportunities for extra credit to boost your grade.

Daily work, activities, and homework are vital to the success on summative assessments and are weighted as 20% of your overall grade. They are intended to provide the necessary experiences and practice needed to do well on the summative assessments.

You are required to keep all of your assignments in a three ring binder or spiral notebook.

### **Multiple Opportunities and Re-testing**

Oregon House Bill 2220 requires that students have more than one opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in a given standard. The highest grade that a student can achieve on a retaken standard is 75%.

Additionally, prior to retesting, students will be required to turn in all previous practice and assignments and /or complete other extended learning activities.

Retaking of standards need to be done prior to the end of the next unit being taught (i.e. if you do not pass the standards in Origins and Influences, you must have retaken it by the end of the Constitution unit).

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Accidental plagiarism will get the opportunity to be redone before being assess for the standard. Deliberate plagiarism will result the opportunity to do an alternate assignment to show proficiency in the standard.

### **Tardy Policy**

Being on time is an important work place habit. Excessive tardiness will result in administrative action.

### **Attendance Policy**

You no longer can hand in homework and get a higher percent score to balance low tests. You must show adequate progress in skill development and in content mastery and that is only what will be used to determine final letter grade as well as whether you mastered all the standards. If you miss days you hurt your chances of getting credit or a good grade.

### **Personal Electronics Policy**

Cell phones and other electronic devices not directly related to instruction are not allowed in class. Policies stated in the student handbook under "personal electronic devices and social media" will be enforced.