

U.S. Government
FAQs, Daily Syllabus and Assignments

Welcome to U.S. Government! This one-semester class is a high school graduation requirement and is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts of democracy and governmental decision-making.

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. Is there a required textbook for this class?

Yes, there is. It is called "Civics Today." You may check out a copy from the bookroom. An online edition of the book with study resources is also available at the website civ.glencoe.com.

To access the book and resources online, load the webpage civ.glencoe.com and then:

-select the book on the left and click "go to the book"

-click to enter the "Student Center"

-here you will find links to the online student edition, chapter overviews, quizzes and vocabulary flashcards

-for chapter study resources, just select the chapter from the drop-down menu

-if you select "online student edition" you will have to enter a username and password for our school

User Name is: CT2005 Password is: 45rutapr

-after the online edition loads, use the "Page Navigator" to go to any page in the book

You will have weekly reading assignments and homework from the textbook.

2. Where do I find the weekly reading assignments and homework?

All of the reading assignments and homework are included with this syllabus. Remember, there may be unforeseen changes, so always check the board in the classroom for any unexpected revisions.

3. What supplies are needed for class?

You will need to have a folder to keep handouts in, a notebook that will become your class journal, paper for work done in class, and something to write with. On test days, you will need a pencil.

4. What about "class rules"?

All of the VVHS policies are enforced in the classroom. This means no eating or drinking in class, no cell phone use, and no use of any other electronic device. Anything I confiscate will be taken to the Academy office at the end of the day for pick-up. Nothing will be returned to students.

5. What about absences and tardies?

Once again, school policy will be enforced. When there are more than two unexcused absences, there will be a home contact. It is the student's responsibility to ask for absence make-up work and to return it within one day for each day absent.

6. How will the class be graded?

The class grade will be based on five components, and 60% or 600 points is the minimum required to pass. Each of these components is explained in detail on the next page.

Homework assignments and Class Journal	35% (350 pts)
--	---------------

In-class Activity assignments	15% (150 pts)
-------------------------------	---------------

Chapter Tests	20% (200 pts)
---------------	---------------

Senior Project	20% (200 pts)
----------------	---------------

Final Exam	10% (100 pts)
------------	---------------

Resubmission of homework that is submitted on time and test retakes to raise a low grade to as much as a 75% are permitted, but this must be done before the next test is administered.

What about late work?

If you are absent, you may turn work in according to APS policy, one day late for each day absent with no penalty. Homework or in-class activities that are turned in late will receive a maximum grade of 50%. Exams missed due to absence or because homework was not complete must be made up before the next exam is administered. Make-up times are before school on Monday and Wednesday and at lunch on Tuesday and Thursday.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS JOURNAL: 35% Of The Grade

Homework assignments focus on the textbook. For each assignment, read the assigned chapter and then turn to the pages listed in the homework assignment and choose **THE REQUIRED NUMBER** of the possible activities to complete. The number of activities you need to complete varies from week to week. All of the activities listed have the same point value, so choose to complete the activities you think you will most enjoy and the ones you think will help you remember what you have just read. Your work should reflect your standing as a Senior, with all appropriate writing conventions and sufficient details. Homework that is submitted on time can be resubmitted to raise the grade to a maximum of 75%. The homework must be resubmitted before the next homework assignment is due.

In addition, you will be completing a Class Journal which will be submitted each time homework is due. Government policies affect each of us every day in ways that are obvious and in other ways that may not be so apparent. If a police officer stops you for speeding on the way to school, the government has affected your life very directly. It may not occur to you when you go on vacation, however, that your tax dollars built the airport where you catch a plane. An important goal of this course is for you to recognize how important government is in each of our lives and to make a commitment to be involved as a citizen. Your Class Journal assignment is to keep a journal in a loose-leaf notebook that documents the direct and indirect impact of government on your daily life. This Class Journal will be graded each time homework is due based on the following:

Number of Entries: Your Class Journal must include FOUR dated entries for each week of the semester beginning with the week of August 22nd (first semester) or January 9th (second semester).

Evidence of Growth in Understanding American Government: Your Class Journal entries should reveal greater understanding as the weeks pass of how and when you are impacted by government actions and policies.

Quality of Entries: Some of your entries should identify a connection to class discussions and reading assignments. ALL of your entries should evidence writing skills appropriate to a soon-to-graduate high school Senior.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS: 15% Of The Grade

Each day when class begins there will be a reading and writing assignment related to the topics we are covering in class. You will have about 15 minutes to complete “bellwork”. This activity is designed to improve content-based reading skills with a variety of source materials, learn vocabulary, review effective note-taking, and prepare for the day’s classroom learning. If you are tardy or absent, you must still complete the work you missed or an alternative assignment in order to receive credit. You will not be “excused” from completing these assignments because you arrive late or are absent.

Each day’s classroom activities are designed to promote learning of the basic concepts of government. Some of these activities are done in groups and some are done individually. At times we will do whole class simulations. There will be a variety of activities presented. Not all of them can be duplicated at home, so if you are absent you may be given an alternative assignment that covers the same material and has the same point value.

CHAPTER TESTS AND FINAL EXAM: 30% Of The Grade

Unit tests and the final exam will focus on reading assignments, homework, and vocabulary and classroom activities. If you do not do well on the exam, you may retake a different test that covers the same material in order to raise your grade to a maximum of 75%. The retake must be completed before the next exam is scheduled to be administered. The same tests and the same final exam are given by all US Government teachers at VVHS.

SENIOR PROJECT: 20% Of The Grade (In all US Government classes at VVHS)

You will receive a separate packet with information on the Senior Project requirements.