

# Syllabus

## Government 2011-2012 (Fall Term)

MR. TIMBERMAN

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419-410-8966 (No calls after 10 p.m.)

(No text messages please)

### PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Seating: There will be assigned seats throughout the year. Please be in your seat before the bell rings.
- How to head your paper: The following should be written in the top right-hand corner of each paper submitted in this class:  
First and Last Name  
Teacher and Period  
Date turned in
- How to get help: Please raise your hand if you have a question and keep working. Raise your hand if you need to leave the room to go to the restroom.
- How to contribute: Discussion will occur on almost a daily basis. You may volunteer to give your input or I may call on you from time to time. Please share your thoughts on the various topics we discuss, as you and the class will benefit by open discussion. Raise your hand to contribute, unless I indicate in advance that you do not need to raise your hand during a class discussion or activity. Certain speaking-related opportunities will be graded (you will be given advanced warning).
- Tools of the trade: Please use pen or pencil in a legible color. Pastel colored ink is especially difficult to read. Black or blue ink is preferred.
- How to be dismissed: Stay in your seat until the bell rings. If I am giving instructions when the bell rings, please remain to listen and I will dismiss you.
- Required materials: While it is not required, I strongly recommended that you obtain a binder to maintain classroom handouts and your graded homework so that you have your material available when you have a test.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the Government of the United States. The focus will be on the national level, but will also include state and local government. Topics to be covered include: need for government; philosophical basis for government; the creation of U.S. national government and the Constitution; selected provisions of the Constitution and amendments; the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; federalism; voting and political behavior; state and local government; and, the relationship between Christian faith and government/politics. In this course we will look at government through the lens of three ideals: Order, Liberty, and Equality. These ideals will be used to understand different political perspectives.

## TEXTBOOK

*Magruder's American Government*, 2006.

Note: There will also be various articles and handouts provided by the teacher from time to time.

## GRADING

25% Tests and Quizzes

30% Research Paper

25% Homework and In-class Assignments

20% Final Exam

Because many of you will be attending college soon, and because of the large size of this class, it will be treated much like a college course. A research paper, tests and quizzes, and the final exam will account for most of your grade. This is the way that it works in most college courses.

## HOMEWORK

Homework in the form of reading assignments and exercises will be assigned on a regular basis. The reading assignments are given to prepare you for in-depth treatment of subject matter during class time. Reading quizzes will be given on a regular basis. Some reading quizzes will be unannounced. Due dates for reading assignments will be announced on a regular basis in advance.

If your homework is not finished when I ask for it, it will be counted as late. I will accept late work until the end of the NEXT school day (with a C as the highest grade possible). If work is not in at that point, it is recorded as a 0. Please let me know AHEAD of time if there are major conflicts; I am willing to work with you if there is a serious problem and you discuss it with me IN ADVANCE.

## ABSENCES

When you miss a class, it is your responsibility to check the class webpage to see what you have missed and to determine whether homework was assigned. Reasons for excused absences are listed in your handbook. You must address me directly before or after class to collect your make-up work and obtain specific instructions for completing your work. You will have an amount of time equal to the same number of classes missed to make up the work. However, any assignment given on or before the day of absence with a due date more than 2 or more days after the absence will still be expected on the original due date along with the rest of the class. When you miss a test or quiz, it is your responsibility to schedule a time with me to make up the test on the FIRST day you are back in class. If you fail to do so, the quiz or test will be a permanent 0.

## RULES (ALL HANDBOOK EXPECTATIONS APPLY)

No sleeping.

No grooming.

No eating snacks. Gum will be tolerated unless it is seen or heard.

No cheating (as defined by the handbook). There are severe penalties for this. You will receive a 0 for the assignment/quiz/test in addition to consequences set forth in the handbook or as determined by an administrator.

Treat me and your fellow students respectfully—as you would like to be treated.