

Course Syllabus

Government

Mr. Chamberlain

jchamberlain@gatewayacademy.us

gatewayarchacademy@gmail.com

Introduction

Welcome Students to Gateway Academy my name is Mr. Chamberlain and welcome to American Government and Constitution Class. I have over 17 years of educational experience including 9 years as a Social Studies teacher and 5 years as an administrator. I am looking forward to giving you a quality education and helping you accomplish your goals.

Classroom Expectations, Protocols and Accommodations

- Always follow the Honor code Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful
- Students are encouraged to use Google for assignments, communication and organization of electronic classwork.
- Show up to class on time with materials and ready to learn
- Unfinished classwork can be finished at home
- Technology use is to be focused on Academics only
- When printing documents students must gain Teacher approval
- Students assignments can be completed electronically or handwritten
- Attendance is mandatory
- Stay engaged during the entire lesson
- Have Fun

Grade Configuration

- **40% In-Class Assignments/Class Discussions**
- **40% Projects**
- **20% Assessments**

Learning Methods and Organizational Strategies

Organizational skills and structure for all individual students will be promoted and implemented using AVID strategies. All students will have a binder that serves as a portfolio for the class, students will keep the binder organized according to the content and unit instructed in chronological order. Objective based learning combined with essential questions is the backbone of the Class. Inquiry will be fostered by helping students create high level questions and classroom discussions will also be used to allow students to express their interpretations and evaluations about the Curriculum. All assessments will be focused on the content covered and the curriculum is aligned to the State standards. Continuous feedback will be given using different methods to promote student retention of the Curriculum . All students will pass the Arizona Citizenship (Civics Test) to ensure they are required for graduation.

Core Discipline Descriptors

Civics - The civics standards promote the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for informed, responsible participation in public life. Productive civic engagement requires knowledge of the history, principles, and foundations of our Constitutional Republic and that each person has both human and civil rights. People demonstrate civic engagement when they address public problems individually and collaboratively and when they maintain, strengthen, and improve their communities and society. Civics also requires an understanding of local, state, national, and international institutions. Civics encompasses practices such as voting, volunteering, jury service, contributing to public processes, and the public discourse.

Curriculum and Content Covered

- Foundations of government including but not limited to the historical foundations and philosophical foundations of the American political system, the purpose and role of government, and where government gets its authority
- Structures and function of tribal, local, Arizona and other states, national, and international governments including but not limited

to constitutional vs. non-constitutional governments, and how governments are organized, limits and powers of the legislative, judicial, and executive branch, and comparative governments • Institutions of the national government including but not limited to Congress, the President and the bureaucracy, federal courts; and institutions of the state government including the legislature, governor and the bureaucracy, and the state courts

- Law-making process including the role of deliberation and compromise
- Media, interest groups, and political parties including but not limited to the how these linkage institutions connect the people to government and shape political and social interests, the role of the free press in the American political system, the origin and role of political parties, the two-party system, the role of third parties in American politics, and the social, political, and economic positions of American political parties in history and the present day
- Media Literacy including but not limited to roles of media, types of media, and media and consumer biases • Elections, voting, and voting behavior including but not limited to political socialization, creation of legislative and congressional districts, opportunities for participation, campaigns, types of elections including primary process and general election process (local, state, and federal), laws governing elections, voter turnout, and barriers to voting
- Citizenship including rights, roles, and responsibilities of a citizen and the process for naturalization • Civil Liberties and Civil Rights • American political culture, values, and principles that are basic to American constitutional democracy and the republic such as individual rights, popular sovereignty, common good, patriotism, rule of law, freedom of conscience and expressions, privacy and civil society, justice, representative government, checks and balances, freedom of religion, civilian control of the military, and equality

- Public policy including researching current issues or policies at the local, state, or federal level • Foreign Policy including but not limited to formation and implementation