**Course: United States Government**

**Instructor: Mrs. Smith**

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**Course Overview:**

This course provides a framework for understanding the purposes, principles and practices of American government as established by the United States Constitution. Students are expected to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities in local, state, and national government.

**Expectations**:

Students will display their abilities to think, communicate and be a good citizen in and outside of school.

•       reparedness—Be in the classroom when the bell rings with necessary

materials (pencil, paper, textbook, netbook, and completed assignments).  
•       espect—Listen and follow directions.  Help create a classroom environment

that is conducive to learning.  
•       ntegrity—Take responsibility to learn the material and show what you know.    
•       etermination—Always be attentive and productive.  Use time wisely.    
•       ngagement—Participate by taking notes, asking and answering questions,

joining activities, and completing assignments.

**Policies**:

* Materials: bring all materials every day unless instructed otherwise (See list below.)
* Netbook: policy on additional handout
* Tardies: be in your seat when the bell stops ringing
* Late Work: Will be accepted at half credit. Students have one week to turn in late work.
* Grading Policies: The following scale will be used for all courses:
  + 100-90 A
  + 89=80 B
  + 79=70 C
  + 69-60 D
  + 59 and ↓ F

**Curriculum Outline**:

**Available through my website:** [**www.smithgov.weebly.com**](http://www.smithgov.weebly.com)

**Assessments**:

Assessments will consist of a combination of the following:

* Bellringers
* Discussion Boards
* Class Participation
* Homework
* Quizzes
* Tests
* Projects
* Essays
* Multimedia Presentations

**Required Textbook and Materials**:

* Macgruder’s *American Government*
* Essential Questions Journal (Workbook)
* Netbook
* Flash Drive
* Notebook or Section of Binder for Notes
* Folder
* Loose Leaf Paper
* Pencil/Pen (Black or Blue Ink)

**Final Exam Policy**:

Final Exams are worth 20% of semester grades. Exams are cumulative (covering an entire semester's mastered content).

Exemption Policy- Students may exempt two final exams if the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. A or B Average
2. No more than two tardies in the course
3. No more than five regular absences
4. Maintain citizenship
5. No missing assignments