U.S. Government - (2013-2014)

Course Description

This course incorporates the study of the principles, structures, and functions of the United States Government. This course will emphasize a current events perspective on political issues, the legislative process, and the U.S. Constitution. Students will gain a personal awareness of individuals' rights and responsibilities as members of the community.

Government is a graduation requirement!

Grading Policy :
Check your grade online!!!

Passing Grades:

100% of the Essential skills and concepts at mastery

At least 70 % of total learning. Meaning you must have at least 70% grade or HIGHER!!!!

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Grades will be weighted 70% for Required or Essential skills and 30% for non essential skills

A - 90%

B - 80%

C - 70%

Extra credit will only count for 3% of your over all grade!

No Credit

Missing a required or essential skill or concept

Less than 70% of total learning

Essential Skills and Concepts

Comparative governments

US citizenship criteria

Principles of democracy

History of the U.S. Constitution & federalist papers

U.S. Constitution and its application today

Constitutional amendments and impact

Concept of judicial powers
       (judicial review)

Judicial philosophies
       (restraint and activism)

Basic political ideology and application to today

Political party functions/dynamics

Role of the third parties in a two party system

Executive powers and responsibilities

Legislative process

ONGOING SKILLS/CONCEPTS

Checks and balance system

Reading proficiency - primary sources

Research methods

Demonstrate MLA and RHS writing standards

Civic involvement/experience

TEXT **McClenaghan, William, Magruder's American Government, Prentice Hall**

GRADING POLICY CONTINUED:

RHS SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT HOMEWORK / GRADING POLICY

Grading Policy for Essential Skills (Tests/Projects/Essays) – 70% of grade

Essential skills and concepts will be graded in the following manner:

1 Tests/projects/essays completed on time and earning **greater** than 50% will receive a grade of 70% upon attainment of mastery.
2 Tests/projects/essays which are not completed on time or earn **less** than 50% will receive a grade of 60% upon attainment of mastery.
3 All projects/essays must be turned in on the due date regardless of absence.
4 Students absent on the day of a test will be expected to make up that test upon their return.

Grading Policy for Interactive Notebook and/or other work (see description below) – 30% of grade

Interactive Notebook will be graded in the following manner:

1 We accept late work within the Interactive Notebook for 50% credit until the end of the current unit of study.

Late work may be accepted beyond the end of the unit at teacher discretion.

***The student's grade will be derived from an average of all work completed during each unit of study and based on the following breakdown:

90-100% - A

80-89%- B

70-79%- C

69% or below- NO CREDIT / Course must be retaken

Approximate breakdown of coursework:

Required/Essential skills (test and projects) 70%

Interactive Notebook/Other coursework 30%

No Credit

Missing required assignments or essential skills or concepts
Less than 70% of total learning

Social Studies Grade Comment Key

1. Essential Skill not passing but must be made-up.	NM
2. Non Essential Skill cannot be made up.	0
3. Not Taken/Not Turned In or No Name	Mi (Missing)
4. Absent can be made up	Ab
5. Excused	Ex