

U.S. Government and Civics

2024/2025



Instructor information

Instructor	Email	Remind Course Information
Nathan Lee	Nathan.lee@yourcharlotteschools.net	Use email and LBHS Staff Website for weekly lesson plans and syllabus.

General information

Description

The American Government course will include the study, analysis, and interpretation of the foundations of American Government, The three branches of Government, participation in Government, and Government in action.

Expectations of Employability Skills

- **Communicate:** Effectively and respectfully communicate with teacher and peers.
- **Work Ethic:** Be productive while in class and complete required tasks.
- **Problem-Solve:** Utilize available resources to solve daily challenges.
- **Detail-oriented:** Submit work that has been reviewed and corrected for common mistakes.
- **Time Management:** Effectively budgets time with consideration of other obligations to ensure short- and long-term assignments are completed.

Classroom Rules

- No cell phones, earbuds, or electronic devices used during instructional time
- **Be Prompt, prepared, seated, and ready to learn!**
- **Be respectful of teachers, peers and yourself.**
- **Bring critical thinking and a growth mindset to class.**

Goals/Objectives

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the U.S. Government and it's impact on our lives and our role within it. Including the following topics:
- Foundations of Government, The Constitution, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Protecting Civil Liberties, Citizenship and Civil Rights, Government by the People, Elections, Government and the Economy, and Government in Action

Course materials

Required materials

- Pencil/Pen
- Folder

Optional materials

N/A

Required text

Title: “United States Government and Civics”

Authors: Dr. Richard Remy, Dr. Donald Ritchie, Lee Arbetman M.Ed, Cathy Ruffing NBCT.

Grade Policy

Total Points

In this course, we will be utilizing a “total points” grading system. This means that each assignment/paper, quiz, project, or activity will be assigned a specific point value, and your final grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn throughout the semester. This approach offers simplicity and transparency, allowing you to easily track your progress and understand how each task contributes to your overall grade.

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Points Possible}} = \text{Final Grade}$$

Category	Point Value
Assignments	Varies per length of assignment.
Assessments	Varies per assessment.
Bellwork	3 points per day.
Extra Credit	*Only if all assignments are submitted*

Make Up Work

Completion Deadline

In accordance with our school policy, students are expected to submit assignments by the designated due dates. However, we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise that could hinder the timely completion of work. It is the STUDENT’s responsibility to collect any missed work. Per county policy, a student will have two days to make up work from one absence. Students with an excused absence will not incur a deduction in points within this timeframe but unexcused students may have up to 30% deducted. **Late submissions will not be accepted past three weeks from the original due date at the discretion of the teacher and with possible point deductions.** Students need to communicate any difficulties they encounter in meeting deadlines with their teachers as soon as possible. This policy aims to foster responsibility and accountability while still providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning and mastery of course material.

Test Repair

At our school, we believe in the importance of continuous learning and improvement. Therefore, all students are provided with the opportunity to make test repairs following their initial assessment. This policy allows students to reflect on their performance, identify areas for improvement, and strive for mastery of course content. It's essential to note that this opportunity is not extended to essays or projects that involve rough drafts or progress checkpoints, as these assignments already provide ample opportunity for revision and feedback. Students have one week from the date of receiving their graded test to initiate the repair process. Repair sessions may be scheduled before or after school, but not during regular class time. Additionally, students have the option to complete their repairs under the supervision of a proctor in the media center during tutoring sessions. Upon successful completion of the repair, students will earn points at the discretion of the teacher. This provides a tangible incentive for engagement in the improvement process and reinforces the value of ongoing learning and growth.

Attendance

Attendance is vital for student success and engagement in our learning community. As per our school policy, students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. In the event of unavoidable absences, it is the responsibility of the student and their guardians to notify the school promptly. **Students who miss more than 20% of instruction will be prohibited from participating in school events such as extracurricular activities i.e., homecoming, prom, athletics, band, ROTC, theatre, and chorus.** Research has shown that 10% or more of instructional time missed by students (Pre-K to grade 12) is an early warning indicator for possible academic struggles; this measure is used to define chronic absenteeism nationwide. Florida Statute 1003.24 and School Board Policy 5200.

After the first seven days of absences, a letter will be issued to the student and their parent/guardian as a reminder of the importance of consistent attendance. This communication serves to encourage students to prioritize their education and take proactive steps to address any barriers to attendance they may be facing.

Should a student accumulate ten or more days of absences, a second letter will be issued, emphasizing the need for immediate action to improve attendance, the need for documentation, and the potential consequences of continued absenteeism.

***Please note that for AICE and AP courses, a student who misses more than 20% of period attendance will be responsible for the cost of the assessment and possible removal from the class.**

Furthermore, it is crucial to note that excessive unexcused absences will result in a significant impact on academic performance. Any assignments or assessments missed during unexcused absences will incur a penalty of up to 30% off their grade. This policy underscores the importance of regular attendance and emphasizes the correlation between consistent attendance and academic success. It is our collective responsibility to support students in maintaining attendance habits that foster their learning and development.

Classroom Policies and Procedures

Each day begins with a bellwork activity.

Assignments should be handed up front.

If absent, missing work is available with the class near the sink.

Reminder: Come with a growth mindset, the aim is not to just regurgitate information but to develop critical thinking skills.