

James E Taylor High School

Academic Government Syllabus

Patrick Knock

Introduction

Welcome to Government! This course are designed to challenge the student while allowing an enjoyable learning experience. The curriculum combines historical foundations of the United States government with current local, state, national and international events

Guidelines established by the Government team are included below. This information is to give you an understanding of the course and what will be expected of you this year. During the year, your individual teacher will give specific explanation in his/her classroom.

Upon entering the class, you will find the assignments on the board. You are expected to read the assignments and record and keep them in your planner or notebook. **If you are absent from class for any reason (illness, field trip, etc.), it is your responsibility to get the material missed, either notes or assignments, as designated by your instructor.**

GRADES

Six Weeks Grades will be determined as follows:

Major 60%

Minor 30%

Other 10%

At the end of each semester, you will be given a cumulative semester average.

Grading Policies

Major Grade (60%)

- a. Any student absent on a given test day will need to arrange to make-up the test. Make-up tests will cover the same material, but will be in a different form. Make-up tests will be given outside of class either before or after school at the convenience of your teacher.
- b. If you wish to retest because you have a failing grade, you will have to do that within the 5 day period with a maximum possible grade of 70%. Retest needs to be scheduled either before or after school, following a mandatory tutorial session. Retests will cover the same material, but will be in a different version.
- c. A major project may be assigned every six weeks. It will be necessary to do research and preparation outside class and a presentation before fellow students. The projects will be related to the material we are covering in class. They are designed to help you analyze and apply the information you have acquired in class.
- d. If a project is turned in late, 15 points will be deducted from the project per day, with nothing accepted after the fourth late day.

Minor Grades (30%)

a. Assignments

- (1.) There will be a number of assignments given during each six weeks grading period.
- (2.) Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. **Any assignment turned in after this time will be regarded as late and 15 points will be deducted per day.**
- (3.) Students absent on the day an assignment is due will have the responsibility of turning in the assignment upon their return to class.

Minor Grades (30%) cont.

- (5.) You will be required to keep an interactive student notebook throughout this semester. The notebooks will be checked periodically for processing activities and guided practice opportunities. This will be a 1 inch 3 ring binder with 6 dividers, one for each unit.
- (6.) Quizzes will take various forms: Vocabulary quiz, open note pop quiz, reading notes quiz, ISN quiz, etc.

Other Grades (10%)

- (1.) These grades may be in class work, participation etc.

Classroom Discipline

Students who fail to follow the classroom guidelines will participate in the appropriate steps.

Level One – Initial difficulties with classroom guidelines will result in teacher/student conferencing with appropriate consequences.

Level Two – Continued difficulties with classroom guidelines will result in teacher/student/parent conferencing with appropriate steps.

Level Three – Continued difficulties with classroom guidelines will result in teacher/student/parent/administrative conferencing with appropriate consequences.

Tutorials

Tutorials sessions will be available to all Government students Monday & Wednesday from 2:40 to 3:15pm Extra tutoring can be arranged with the individual teacher. *All students who do not maintain a passing grade will be subject to mandatory tutorials as directed by the teacher per the Social Studies Department Procedures.*

Six Weeks	Curriculum Focus	Days
First	Orientation	3
	Foundations	4
	Steps to Union	6
	Celebrate Freedom Week and Constitution Day (Sept. 16th)	1
	Structure of Government	6
	Political Parties, Interest Groups and Media	7
	Total	27
Second	Political Parties, Interest Groups and Media	2
	Voting and Political Participation	12
	Legislative Branch	8
	Executive Branch	5
	Total	27
Third	Executive Branch	3
	Judicial Branch	4
	Civil Rights and Liberties	9
	Policy	5
	State and Local Government	3
	Review and Final Exam	4
	Total	28
	Semester Total	82

Print this page and fill out

Please print clearly and return promptly.

Student Name: _____

Student Phone # _____

Student's email address: _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's phone # _____

Parent's email address _____

Student Work? _____yes_____no. Hours a week? _____

Extracurricular Activities

Interesting/Important Facts

Government Agreement

I have read the course requirements and the classroom management plan given in government class. My grade will reflect my work habits and my willingness to do my best.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

I have also read the course requirements/classroom management plan and understand what is expected of my child in this course.

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

I pledge to do my best as a teacher to ensure that your son/daughter is successful in the upcoming school year. In pursuit of this goal and to assist students and parents, please feel free to email Patrick Knock – patrickknock@katyisd.org or contact me at 281-237-4411