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Honors American Government

Mr. Bayne

The American Government Course is about learning how the need for and the structure of the United States Government impacts an individual’s life.

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| Classroom Principles | Learning Rituals/Practices | Performance Options |
| RespectResponsibilityIntegrityProfessionalismSelf-Discipline | VocabularyWarm-upsJournalingClass DiscussionsOral ResponsesPrimary Source Analysis | Tests / QuizzesClasswork-Wrap UpsProjectsWritten Responses: BCRs and ECRs |

Course Questions:

* Why does a society need a governmental system?
* How was the United States government developed?
* What are the three branches of the United States Government and what are their functions?
* How are changes initiated in government policy?
* How effective is government policy in meeting socio-economic goals?
* How do individuals and groups enact change within the American political system?
* What is the role of the government regarding domestic and foreign policy?

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**High School Assessment**

MSDE requires students enrolled in American Government to participate in the HSA Government assessment to meet the high school graduation assessment requirement for Social Studies. The assessment is administered during the spring. Students enrolled in this course are required to meet the minimum qualifying score (via a passing test score, a passing Bridge Project score, or a sufficient combined score).

**HCPS Grading Breakdown**

A: 89.5-100

B: 79.5-89.4

C: 69.5-79.4

D: 59.5-69.4

E: 0-59.4

**Note:** Students must pass the class and the American Government HSA in order to graduate from high school. This course is essential to success in high school. **I promise to work hard to help you succeed!**

![MCj03979950000[1]]()**Course Standards:**

**Grading Policy:**

* Most work must be turned in on time (late work rarely accepted)
* All work missed due to an excused absence can be made up according to Harford County guidelines
* Any missed tests or quizzes must be made up outside of class on a designated morning and/or afternoon during the week
* Make an appointment to take any make up work
* The grade will be determined using the following weighting structure:
	+ 50%Product (Summative: Tests, Projects)
	+ 30%Process (Formative: Quizzes, Wrap Ups)
	+ 20%Practice (Warm Up Journals, Classwork, Participation Points)

**Classwork Grade:**

* Classwork will be randomly collected and graded
* Classwork assignments and essays will be collected and graded
* Classwork grade will include your ability to stay on task and to complete tasks
* Classwork grade includes your ability to contribute to group tasks

**Homework:**

* Homework will be given occasionally
* Homework will be collected at random and graded

**Participation Points:**

* You can earn participation points each day
* These points can be earned in a variety of ways:
	+ Answering classroom questions
	+ Participating in classroom focused discussion
	+ Presenting class work
	+ Completing classroom tasks as directed.

**Student Signature: Parent Signature:**

**Home Access Center:**

* Please check the Home Access Center frequently.
* Mr. Bayne will upload grades frequently.

**Unit Exams:**

* Each unit will have a summative unit exam created by HCPS
* The exam will be made up of brief constructed responses (SRs) and constructed responses (ECRs; BCRs)

**Students will take a HCPS Final Examination in American Government.**

**Unit Quizzes:**

* Each unit will have approximately 2 quizzes.
* Quizzes may be announced or unannounced.

**Extra Credit:**

* Available during every unit of study
* Must be completed, presented, or tuned in before unit exam
* Extra credit is **not** available to students with missing grades

**Classroom Rules:**

* Be respectful, be on time, no eating or drinking, no use of inappropriate language.

**Supplies**

* One (1) hanging file folder with your name on the tab
* Several Pencils and blue or black pens
* Lined white filler paper
* One (1) marble composition books
* Ample space in a 3-ring binder for American Government materials or a 1.5 inch binder for just government work.
* Three (3) dividers (Classwork, Vocabulary and Graded Work)

**Website Reviews**

* [www.mrbayne.com](http://www.mrbayne.com) (the greatest website ever) has extra reviews and materials for each topic we go over in government class.