

# American Government



**Mrs. Taylor**

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Office phone: 406-837-7420 ex. 4238

Room 203

Prep period - 5th

**Course Description:** Students will research and interpret the United States Constitution, while applying it to present world situations. They will be empowered with understanding what political parties they align with and how they can make a difference within our political system. Students will have a better understanding of where their tax dollars are spent and decide for themselves what direction they would like to see their government take.

## **Units to be covered:**

Foundations of American Government  
Political Behavior: Government By the People  
The Legislative Branch  
The Executive Branch  
The Judicial Branch  
Comparative Political and Economic System  
Participating in State and Local Government

## **Requirements:**

Students will be expected to read the required text and be ready for a quiz or discussion on that reading. They will need to hand in all worksheets, presentations, essays, reports etc. on the assigned date. Students will also be tested on materials learned. During this course there will be several assignments where students will have to collect information on their own for debates, papers and presentations.

**Late assignment policy:** Students have until the end of the day that the assignment is due to get full credit. By the next day the assignment is worth 80%. School absent policy comes into play if a student is absent.

**Materials that students will need:** paper, pen or pencil, notebook and a box of Kleenex.

**Teacher Provided Materials:** Government textbooks, other readings, movies, markers and colored pencils.

**Expectations:**

- Being prepared and prompt upon entering class.
- Being respectful to all people and things in the classroom.
- Being ready to learn.
- Being productive in class to meet academic goals.

**If You Choose to Break a Rule**

1. Warning
2. Cleaning Lunch detention
3. Discipline Referral
4. Parent notification with a call or conference (Anytime I feel it necessary)

***These are subject to severity of behavior and /or repetition of the behavior.***

**Rewards**

- Praise (daily)
- Positive notes or emails home
- Various other positive perks (throughout the semester)
- Joy of learning (each day of the semester)

**Grading Scale:**

- 100-90% A
- 89-80% B
- 79-70% C
- 69-60% D
- 59-50% F

**Grade Distribution within quarters:**

- Tests 50%
- Classroom work 15% (max of 10 points)
- Projects/Quizzes 35%

**Grade Distribution:**

- Q1 (45%) & Q2 (45%) & Exam (10%) = S1**
- Q3 (45%) & Q4 (45%) & Exam (10%) = S2**

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell Phones will be used only in regards to assignments that need Internet access. When there is not an assignment, students will need to have their phones turned off and put away.

If a student is caught using their phone in class, it will be taken away for the period. If they are caught a second time the phone will remain in my classroom until the day is over. On the third offense, the phone will be sent to the office, where the parent will have to come in to pick it up.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Any student, who is absent from class ten (10) or more class periods during any quarter, will be subject to individual classroom teacher policies, which may affect student grades. Possible sanctions may be assessed on the student up to and including the loss of credit. **(Per Bigfork High School Handbook p16 & 17)**

Classroom Policy: If a student misses class more than ten (10) days, the teacher has a right to not give credit. This will be determined on if they are unexcused or excused absences and on their ability to make up the work within the allowed time period.

Please read through page 16-17 in the handbook for any questions regarding the types of student absences.

### **Tardy Policy:**

Class starts promptly when the bell rings, and it is expected that all students are ready to start when the bell rings. Students need to be in the room when the bell rings. If they are not, they are tardy, unless pre-arranged.

Please read through and sign below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If you have any questions, please email me at [staylor@k12.mt.us](mailto:staylor@k12.mt.us) or call 406-837-7420 ext. 4238