

United States and Arizona Government Syllabus

Course

US/AZ Gov	Fall 08	.5 credit	Mountain Pointe High School
Sections:	SS0300-08,10,12	M-F, Periods 1-5-6	Room C205

Instructor: Lane Waddell

Telephone: (480) 759-8449 EXT 58146
Email: lwaddell@tuhsd.k12.az.us
Website: <http://staff.tuhsd.k12.az.us/lwaddell/>
Office: C205
Office hours: Before school 7:45-8:05 and after school 2:45-3:30

Required textbooks

All readings related to the class can be found on the class website.

Course Overview

The United States/Arizona Government course introduces students to the requirements and demands of democratic citizenship. This course will help develop informed, responsible participation in American political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of American Constitutional democracy. Study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the United States. The course studies the nature and function of political relationships: citizen to citizen, citizen to local community, citizen to state, and citizen to the nation. In short, United States/Arizona Government will act as a finishing course of the social studies, preparing students to take their rightful place as full, active, and responsible members of American society while simultaneously integrating in them an appreciation for the past as it relates to the present and preparing them for the possibilities of their future.

Course Objectives

There are four parts to the class. The first part will deal with the United States Constitution. The class will look at the articles of confederation, the constitutional convention, the development of the constitution, amending the constitution and powers granted by the constitution. The first part also looks at Federalism and the structure and functions of federalism. The second part will look at the three branches of government. The students will understand the constitutional requirements for office, how a bill becomes a law, the structure and function of the dual court system, judicial review, the roles of the president. The third part will look at political socialization, primarily political parties and their function. The third unit also looks at how one is influenced to vote and how one votes. The last unit will look at civil rights and civil liberties and how these impact citizens. The unit will also look at the economy and social welfare and national security. The last part of the unit will look at Arizona, the initiative and referendum process, three branches of Arizona government and Arizona today.

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Student Evaluation

The final course grade will be determined based on the following point system:

Projects (25 points each)	150 points
Opening Day Packet (15 points)	15 points
Notebook (30 points each)	120 points
Current Events (5 points each)	60 points
Discussion Posting (15 points each)	90 points
Guest Speaker (20 points each)	100 points
Exams and Quizzes	365 points
Final exam	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points	1000 points

The grading scale is as follows: A = (900 points or higher); B = (800-899); C = (700-799); D = (600-699); F = 599 and below. All assignments are due on the date posted. Assignment's one day late will be marked down two grades. Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted.

Assessment Procedures

A variety of exams will be used and may include multiple-choice, identification, short answer, essay outlines, and essays. Exams may be oral or written, and may require the use of a computer. Exams will be based on chapter readings, documents, and discussions. Additional exams may include vocabulary, geography, reading comprehension, as well as other assignments. Although most exams will be based solely on a specific assignment, cumulative exams may be given.

Grade Selection

The students will be given an option for working towards a grade that they desire. The minimum grade that can be achieved will be a C. For each grade above a C there will be a corresponding project to complete. The projects are concurrent, that is if a student would like to earn an A, they must complete the C, B and A projects. Please understand that they student must complete all other work associated with the class and achieve the points necessary for grade they wish to obtain.

Attendance and Sweep

Excessive absences in this course will have a negative impact on your grade, as you are responsible for any material or work missed. You are allowed 5 absences (both excused and unexcused). You will be dropped on the 6th absence. You will be swept if not in class by the last bell. Returning to your locker to gather materials for class still counts as a sweep if not in class before the last bell. If you are tardy you will report to sweep.

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Course Materials

The following materials are required in class each day: assigned readings, composition book, pen or pencil. No pass will be issued to obtain these materials. Students are expected to maintain a course notebook for study guides, handouts, readings and other course materials. The notebook will be graded each quarter to assure appropriate collection of course materials. The students will need a composition books for the class.

Assignments

All assignments are due on the date posted. Assignment's one day late will be marked down two grades. Assignments more than one day late will not be accepted. All work handed in must have your first and last name, date and class period. Assignments must be on 8 1/2" x 11" college lined paper (no spiral) and be neat and organized, complete with good penmanship, spelling and grammar. Any messy or unreadable work will not be accepted and must be redone.

Academic Integrity

The MPHS Student Handbook provides definitions of what is expected of your work. If you are found to be in violation of this policy, then corrective steps will be taken.

Academic Achievement

Every student wants to do well and it is expected that each student will achieve at and beyond their ability. There may come a point during the semester that the student is not meeting their expectations or those of the class. When that occasion arises, the student needs to proactive. First, check the class website for information on grades and assignments. Next, contact the instructor and determine the best path for achievement. The instructor is there to help the student with academic achievement. This can take many forms, such as attending Academic Lab, creating and maintaining study groups, meeting before or after school. The next step is to discuss the issues with the guidance department. They may have other achievement tools available to the student.

Academic Lab

The purpose of Academic Lab is to provide students with a setting where a teacher can provide assistance and monitor academic progress. Within the framework of Academic Lab, teachers can work with students who need assistance with assignments, make up tests, and complete other assigned work.

Discussion Postings

The purpose of the discussion postings is to encourage greater participation by the students in a technological forum. The students will be asked a series of questions relating to the topics at hand. The students will need to create an original post to the question and respond to two other postings to achieve credit for the assignment.

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Guest Speaker

Guest speakers add a very unique element to the class. The speakers bring knowledge and experience of the government. The students will be responsible for the guest speakers in class. Groups of students will work together to obtain guest speakers for the class.

Honor

The students of Mr. Waddell are setting the standard for those who follow: We will not pass off another's work as our own, We will respect one another and our campus, We will take responsibility for our actions and accept the consequences. In short we will act with personal integrity because we choose to live a life of honor and success

Course Disclaimers

The sequence of material and speed at which we cover material is dependent on the interests and abilities of each class.

This class will provide reasonable accommodations for students who have special needs as documented by the Special Education department or Guidance Counselors.

Classroom Rules and Procedures

There are few classroom rules. You may do those things that promote your learning and the learning of others. As young adults, I expect you to act accordingly. This means:

- Be on time - that is something you can take care of.
- Be prepared - bring your materials as required.
- No talking at inappropriate times (such as during instruction), out-of-turn, or while another has the floor.
- Writing or passing notes (they may be read out loud), sleeping, or any other disrupting activity will not be tolerated.
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Follow all directions the first time they are given.
- Respect yourself, others and their property and their opinions; we will not engage in putting people down.
- Be ready to participate - make eye contact and be fearless when it comes to your opinion or your turn to come forward.
- Have your homework done - if you are supposed to read something, then read it so we can have intelligent discussions.
- School rules prohibit gum, food, ipods, mp3's, and active cell phones.
- Work to your best potential.
- Discipline procedures follow the three-step correction process:
 1. One-on-one counseling with you.
 2. Phone call or meeting with your parents.
 3. Referral to school administration.Be careful, all three procedures could be used on the first offense if it serious enough.

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The readings and assignments for the course are set out below. The readings can be challenging and it is, therefore, imperative to keep up with the readings. You will find the readings in your textbook, the internet, handouts.

Week 1: Introduction to the course, to the faculty, and to the students. Discuss projects, current events, and essays. What is government? Why study it? What are the expected goals for learning.

Reading, Syllabus, Magna Carta, Articles of Confederation and Shay's Rebellion

Week 2: The framing of the constitution. The articles of confederation, how the constitution remedies problems in the articles, the Great Compromise. The Federalist Papers.

Reading, Preamble and Foundations 1,5-6,11-12, 14, 25-27, 29-33, 35-45, 47 and 49
Topic Day #1-First Amendment

Week 3: United States Constitution, development of Federalism and separation of powers.

Reading, Foundation Readings 51-55, Federalism Explained
EXAM-Unit 1 Exam.

Week 4: The Legislative Branch

The qualifications, compensation and election process for Congress.

Reading, Article 1, Legislative Readings 1-16, and Federalist #52.

QUIZ, Article 1 of Constitution on House of Representatives.

Topic Day #2-Second Amendment.

Week 5: The Legislative Branch

The purpose and powers granted Congress at the federal level. Functions of Congress.

Reading, Legislative Readings 17-24 and The Federalist #62

QUIZ, Article 1 of US Constitution on Senate

Current Event #3-Fourth Amendment

Week 6: The Legislative Branch

Functions of Congress and how a bill becomes a law.

Reading, Legislative Readings 24-40.

Current Event #4-Fifth Amendment

Project #1 Due

Week 7: The Executive Branch

The qualifications, compensation and election process of the president.

Reading, Article 2 of Constitution, Executive Readings, 6-8, 12-14,

Federalist Papers #67 and #68 and Ford Speech

Week 8: The Executive Branch

The history of the President, roles of the President

Reading, Executive Readings 4-5, 9-11, 15-16, The Federalist #70, and Kennedy Speech

QUIZ: Article 2 of the United States Constitution

Topic Day #5-Sixth or Seventh Amendment

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Week 9: The Executive Branch

The purpose and powers granted to the executive branch.

Reading, Executive Readings 1-3, 17-27

Topic Day #6-8th Amendment

Project #2 Due

Week 10: The Judicial Branch

The organization of the Federal court system. Judicial selection process.

Reading, Article 3 of US Constitution, Judicial Readings 1-4, 22-29, and Federalist #78

Week 11: The Judicial Branch

History and function of Supreme Court, impact of various US Supreme Court cases.

Reading, Judicial Readings 5-12, 13-21, Justice Breyer Speech

QUIZ: Article 3 of the United States Constitution

Topic Day #7-Tenth Amendment

Week 12: The Judicial Branch

The impact of various US Supreme Court cases on society.

Reading, Judicial Readings 13-21

Topic Day #8-Conspiracy Theories

Exam-Unit 2 Exam

Project #3 Due

Week 13: Citizenship

Political behavior and political parties.

Reading, Political Parties 1-13, History of Political Parties, Political Parties in United States and Political Parties Enjoy Rich History

Topic Day #9-Hollywood and Government

Week 14: Citizenship

Political parties and voting. Influence of media on parties and voting.

Reading, Voting and Elections 1-4, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and Voting in the United States

Project #4 Due

Week 15: Citizenship

Political parties and interest groups.

EXAM-Unit 3 Exam

Current Event #10-Miscellaneous

Week 16: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

The rights of the people and the rights of the government.

Reading, Civil Rights and Liberties Readings 1-14, Eyes on Prize (audio), Separation of Church and State (audio) and Emmitt Till Video.

Class Project Due

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Week 17: Government Outcomes

Economic Policy, Social Policy and National Security issues.

Reading, Welfare Reform, Monetary Reform, Overview of War on Terror and White House view of War on Terror.

Topic Day #11-United States Military

Week 18: State of Arizona

The founding of the State of Arizona. The three branches of government and the Initiative and Referendum and Recall issues

Reading, Arizona Government Readings, Arizona Constitution

Current Event #12-Arizona Issues

Week 19: FINAL EXAM

The final exam for the course will be a cumulative exam. The exam will be given on the date assigned by the school for this course. Each student is responsible for writing instruments and paper. No other items may be brought to the final exam. There will be no early exams. Students not present for the final exam will be given an grade of Incomplete.