**AP American Government/Civics**

**Coach Tucker Room H104**

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**Course Description**:

The purpose of this government course is to provide students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government. Students will examine the philosophical foundations of the United States government and how that philosophy developed. Students will also examine the structure and function of the United States government including the purpose and operation of the branches of government under the Constitution and how it has evolved through time and its relationship to states and citizens. Students will also examine various other aspects of government such as politics, elections, current events, and how local issues affect government policy. The AP American Government standards may be found at [AP U.S. Government and Politics Course and Exam Description, Effective Fall 2020 (collegeboard.org)](https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-us-government-and-politics-course-and-exam-description.pdf).

**Classroom Expectations:**

**All policies of the Cartersville High School Student Handbook will be enforced.**

**C**ommit to Excellence- Be on time and prepared for class and learning

**O**wn My Behavior- Keep all personal electronic devices put away

**D**emonstrate Respect-Listen to whoever is speaking in class and pay attention

**E**xhibit A Positive Attitude-Clean up after yourself

**Materials:**

* 3- ring binder or a 2-pocket folder
* Notebook Paper
* Pens and Pencils

**Textbook:** Government in America, Edwards Wattenberg Howell.

These are brand new books. Please help us keep these books in good condition. You will be held responsible for lost or damaged books.

**Grading:**

This is a semester long course. With that, students will take the Final Exam at the end of the 1st Semester. Students will be assessed in a variety of ways, both formative and summative. This may include, but is not limited to homework, in-class activities, quizzes, tests, and projects. The grade breakdown is as follows:

* **Summative- 55%**
* **Formative- 35%**
* **Final Exam- 10%**

**100%**

**Homework:**

With this being an AP course, preparation outside of class will be key for your success. **Homework is due at the beginning of class.** If you have an excused absence, pre-assigned work is due the day you return. If you leave school early for a school related activity the day an assignment is due, it is due **before** you leave school. Students with excused absences will have time to make up work. Students should speak with me upon your return to school.

**Testing:**

There will always be advanced notice of quizzes and tests.

**Schoology:**

Schoology will be used in this course in a variety of ways. I will post a weekly calendar at the beginning of each week that will have a schedule for the week as well as electronic copies of whatever we may be doing in class. All course materials may also be found in the Unit Folders in Schoology as well. Please make sure you are in the habit of frequently checking Schoology, especially if you miss class for any reason.

**Exam Exemptions:**

Exam Exemption:

2 absences with an 85

3 absences with a 90

4 absences with a 95

Absences are excused and unexcused.

**Make-up work:**

Summative assessments must be made-up within 5 days of the absence. Please make arrangements with the teacher in advance.

**Course Outline:**

Unit 1- Foundations of American Democracy

Unit 2- Interactions Among Branches of Government

Unit 3- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Unit 4- American Political Ideologies and Beliefs

Unit 5- Political Participation