



# U.S Government Syllabus

**Coach Mike Weatherford**

**Government / Baseball**

**mweatherford@dentonisd.org**

**Phone:** 940-369-1268 (class) & 940-369-1113 (VM)

**Room:** Portable 9

**Conference Period:** A4 & B4

**Tutorials:** Tues., Wed., Thurs. - 8:00-8:30AM

**Website Link:** <http://www.dentonisd.org/Domain/964>

**Purpose:** The purpose of the course is to meet the political science requirement of the Texas core curriculum. Further it is the goal of the instructor that each student understands the political processes, structures and issues that are the foundations of American government and institutionalism.

**Objective:** The objective of study in a core curriculum in political science is an understanding and evaluation of the nature of governments and the actions of people concerning government and public policy. Such study is intended to inform students so that they can understand politics and political systems and thus function as responsible and effective citizens in their community, state, and nation.

**Required Text:** McGraw-Hill *United States Government* <http://connect.mheducation.com>

**TEKS:** available online at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html>

**Supplies Needed:**

2 Pieces of paper      Pen/Pencil      Phone/WiFi-device

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Come to class on time.
2. Be respectful of classmates as well as your teacher.
3. Be actively involved in class activities and assignments.
4. Check my website/Google Classroom regularly for assignments and updates.
5. **All policies in the Student Handbook will be followed. I AM THAT TEACHER THAT WILL SEND YOU TO THE VP OFFICE FOR DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS! I will inform ladies & gentlemen to remove their hats in class. I will inform ALL to stand for the moment of silence and pledges. You may or may not choose to recite the pledges, but you will remove headphones and set aside phones during the recital.**

**Course Schedule**

Unit 1 – Foundations of American Government (Ch. 1-4)

Unit 2 – Legislative Branch (Ch. 5-7)

Unit 3 – Executive Branch (Ch. 9-11)

Unit 4 – Judicial Branch (Ch. 13-16)

Unit 5 – Participating in Government (Ch. 17-20)

## Pertinent Classroom Information

- You must turn off or “silence/mute” all noise making devices before the start of class each day.
- Government is not a subject that can fully be appreciated without discussion and debate. There will be times when you disagree with me and/or your fellow classmates. It is OK to disagree. It is NOT acceptable to be disrespectful. If you don’t know the difference, please ask (nicely).
- If you request to leave the classroom “to complete another teacher’s assignment”, you must have a pass from that teacher (I do NOT email or call a teacher for you) & you MUST have an “A” in my gradebook that day and moment to leave.
- If you are tardy to class, bring a note from whoever made you late or go by the tardy/Attendance windows for your tardy slip.
- As this is a 99.9% “PAPERLESS” class, you will turn in your “INTRO” assignments in the following manner: 1.) Create a WORD Doc / GOOGLE Doc, title it “Ch ? Intro”, type your answers only, “SAVE” the document in your personal folders, and email it to my G-MAIL account ( [mweatherford@g.dentonisd.org](mailto:mweatherford@g.dentonisd.org) ) or 2.) Google “SHARE” it with “mweatherford”.
- It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to insure you **SAVE** all assignment submissions on your “H” drive or keep them in your “Sent” folder in your email to prove your work.

**Grading:** Pursuant to Denton ISD’s grading policy all grades for the course will be reflective of mastery of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students and parents may access the TEKS for U.S. Government on the Texas Education Agency’s website (<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html>).

Grades will be in one of two categories: major assessments minor assessments. Major assessments consist of tests, projects, written assignments, and presentations that are designed to evaluate understanding. There will be a minimum of 3 major assessments per nine weeks, with at least one major assessment per unit covered. Minor assessments will consist of developmental assignments that check for understanding of learning objectives; examples include quizzes, writing prompts, and classroom activities.

**Major Assessments: 60% of final nine weeks grade**

**Minor Assessments: 40% of final nine weeks grade**

**Reassessment:** A student may opt to retake a major assessment within a 10 day window (school days only, not weekends and any absences will be included in the 10 day window) from the original grade posting of that assessment. This may be accomplished in the following ways:

- Teacher will set a deadline for reassessments to be completed within the 10 day window.
- Students will only have ONE additional attempt at showing mastery
- If you have failed to follow the directions stated on the Reassessment sheet, your original grade will stand in the Gradebook. (I.E. – You failed to have the number of paragraphs necessary to answer the question properly.)
- Reassessment is worth full credit
- Major Assessments are the only grades that are eligible for “Re-Assessment”.