

# Government

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Refer to RHS Student handbook for grading policies, attendance, building procedures, student conduct, discipline, etc.

Student Handbook can be found at [www.romeo.k12.mi.us](http://www.romeo.k12.mi.us) under Romeo High School counseling office files and folders.

Summative Assessments = 90%  
Formative Assessments = 10%

Marking Period 1 / Quarter Grade = 40%  
Marking Period 2 / Quarter Grade = 40%  
Final Exam = 20%

## CLASSROOM RULES:

- **BE RESPECTFUL:** This means that you have respect for yourself, peers, and your learning environment. You are expected to be cooperative and open-minded.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE:** You are expected to be on time and prepared for class each day by bringing appropriate materials. You are responsible for all work completed and all work missed during an absence.
- **FOLLOW SCHOOL RULES:** You are expected to know Romeo's rules outline in the Student Handbook and the consequences if you choose to break them.

## SELF INTRODUCTION

I am very passionate about the role of citizens and the positive contributions we must all make to ensure the success of our democratic system. My patriotism, which began early in life, stemmed from two proud grandfathers who served in World War II. It is grounded, by an understanding, of the principles and truth of our nation's history. Being raised with strong values and an appreciation for our numerous freedoms also helped direct me toward a career in public service. I realized how many freedoms we take for granted when I participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. As a Private in the United States Army, I saw a government devastated by civil war and a country thrown into chaos. This experience has motivated me to make a commitment to help develop the skills, abilities, and motivation for my students to become engaged citizens who want to make a positive contribution in their communities and country.

## COURSE RESOURCES:

- **Textbook:** *Magruder's American Government* (Prentice Hall). Note: You will be assigned a textbook and will be **responsible** for that book including any damage done, or if the book is lost or stolen. You need to bring the textbook when instructed to do so. The textbook is also online. You will find a link on my webpage.
- **Chromebook:** You are required to bring your chromebook to class every day. If you do not have a chromebook please see me for alternate arrangements.
- My classroom webpage also includes chapter outlines, essential journal questions, and lesson plans.

## CLASSROOM:

- **You will be assigned a classroom website. It will be used as a portfolio displaying all of your work. It will be used for formative and summative grades. It will also count for 50% of your exam grade as a finished product. A rubric will be provided.**
- It is expected of you to stop talking and give me your full attention when I am standing at the podium.
- **This classroom is a RED ROOM** – Cell Phones are NOT allowed. 1<sup>st</sup> offense – Extended School, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 1 day suspension or 5 days w/o phone. If there is an emergency, please see me. Phones may be used with my permission. Phones should not be visible.
- The school's No Hat policy will be enforced.
- Headphones/Ear Buds are not be used unless permission or instruction is given.
- Discussion – Please be respectful to others opinions and allow them to finish their thoughts before commenting.
- NO feet on the desk or chairs.
- Backpacks are to be kept underneath your desk not in the aisle ways.
- There is always something to do related to this class. (i.e. current events, work on your classroom website, etc.) Please do not work on assignments from any of your other classes.

**WEB PAGES:** The following are web pages that will be used frequently. Please bookmark them. You are expected to use your full name when creating an account and logging in.

- [www.RHSRobertson.weebly.com](http://www.RHSRobertson.weebly.com)
- [www.iCivics.org](http://www.iCivics.org) – You will need to create an account using a different email than your Romeo assigned email.
- [www.Socrative.com](http://www.Socrative.com) - Room number 608572
- [www.cnn.com/studentnews](http://www.cnn.com/studentnews)
- Classroom blog can be found on my weebly web page.
- **Remind101** – Text @b472a to (216) 404-2555

### **LEARNING ESSENTIALS & UNITS OF STUDY:**

**There will be pre and post tests on learning essentials and vocabulary.**

#### **Unit 1 – Foundations of American Government**

1. 1.2.1 Identify, distinguish among, and provide examples of different forms of governmental structures.
2. 2.1.1 Explain the historical and philosophical origins of American constitutional government and evaluate the influence of ideas found in the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation
3. 2.1.2 Explain the significance of the major debates and compromises underlying the formation and ratification of American constitutional government including the Virginia and New Jersey plans, the Great Compromise and the promise for a bill of rights after ratification.
4. 2.1.3 Explain how the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights political principles of popular sovereignty, rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, social compact, natural rights, individual rights, separation of church and state, republicanism and federalism.

#### **Unit 3 – Legislative Branch**

5. 3.1.1 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the legislative branch as enumerated in Article I of the Constitution.

#### **Unit 4 – Executive Branch**

6. 3.1.2 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the executive branch as enumerated in Article II of the Constitution.

#### **Unit 5 – Judicial Branch**

7. 3.1.3 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions, and processes of the judicial branch as enumerated in Article III of the Constitution.

#### **Unit 2 – Political Behavior: Government By The People**

8. 5.3.2 Identify and explain political rights (e.g., freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition; and the right to vote and run for public office).

**In Addition: Being an informed citizen is essential to the democratic process. Be prepared for short quizzes directly related to the student news.**

#### **Inform Parents/Guardians,**

We may view movies, clips and documentaries throughout this class for educational purposes that have ratings of PG, or PG-13.