# **American Government**

***Principles of American Democracy***

**Rancho Mirage High School**

**Mr. Cullinan “Cully”**

**` 2017-2018**

1. **Course Description:**

American Government is a one-semester class and is a graduation requirement. The course is designed to assist students in the process of civic education while understanding the nature of political life in the United States. Students compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the life and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state and local governments, with attention paid to historic documents. The standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

1. **Principles of American Democracy**

**Political Philosophy and the Constitution**

Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American Democracy.

**Citizenship**

Students evaluate, take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights, obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

**A Free Society**

Students evaluate, take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are, their interdependence, their meaning and importance for a free society.

**The Three Branches of Government**

Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the United States Constitution.

**The Supreme Court Interprets the Constitution**

Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

**The Political Process and Participation**

Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.

**Federalism**

Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, and local governments.

**The Media**

Students evaluate, take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

**Competing Rights**

Students examine and evaluate the tensions within our constitutional democracy

**III. The Rules**

* + 1. **Attendance** – ***A Must for Success***
       - Activities requiring student participation cannot be made up.
       - Students need to check for missed work. Work needs to complete by deadlines!
    2. **Tardies – School Policies are followed!**
       - Late arriving students must enter quickly and as inconspicuously
       - BE ON TIME!!!
    3. **Assignments and Late Work:**
       - Students are expected to check the board, calendar, Google Classroom and/or web site each day for assignments and long term due dates.
       - All assignments are due at the beginning of the period and should be put in the basket/box during the opening minutes of class without prompting from the teacher.
       - **Most assignments will be turned via Google Classroom**
       - Late work can be turned in **ON the day of the following unit test** for ½ credit. NO EXCEPTIONS ON THIS!
       - Taking tests on time will ensure that you get the benefits of a curve. Make up tests MUST be taken prior to the next unit test
       - Grade disputes must be made within two DAYS of its posting.
    4. **Personal Conduct and Civic Responsibility:**
       - ***RESPECT*** - Students are expected to demonstrate maturity and reflect a respectful attitude toward others and the teacher.
       - Students must sit in an upright position in their assigned desk and be awake. No Hoods – No Hats!
       - Students must respect personal property of the teacher and peers. Refrain from going behind the teacher work area.
       - Each student treats their classroom environment with respect.
    5. **The Honesty Oath:**
       - Only take credit for your own efforts. All work will be assumed to be yours exclusively, unless you otherwise note.
       - Students caught “ILLEGALLY collaborating” on any assignments will face severe consequences as mandated by our school’s honor policy.

**IV. Grading Policy –** Grades will be posted online and will be updated regularly. Check Student/Parent Vue

**Grading is based on total points**.

* + - **Unit Exams** 
      * Tests can be retaken for a score of up to 70%
      * Tests are curved for tests taken on first test day
    - **Final Exam -**
* **Comprehensive Constitution Test**
  + - **Quizzes & Classwork/Homework**
      * All work is posted in Google Classroom and cullyclass.com
    - **Projects/Research Papers/Participation**
    - **Grade Percentages**

**\*\*\* Percentages round up on .5 Ex: 89.4 = B 89.5 = A\*\*\***

90 – 100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

60 - 69% = D

0 – 59% = F

American Government

Course Syllabus Notification

Mr. Cullinan

2017-2018

We have read the course syllabus (posted on the course website) and understand the rules, procedures and requirements in regards to Mr. Cullinan’s class.

**Please PRINT Student’s:**

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please PRINT Parent’s:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_