**COURSE OUTCOME:**

* **Course Description:**

American Government will examine the making and operation of the American political institutions and how we the people are a part of the governing process. We will look at the makeup of the three branched of our government and how they operate, the documents that lay the foundations of our democratic government and what role the citizen plays in this process.

* **Curriculum**
* Knox County, Tennessee State Education Department

\*Link to Standards: <http://www.tennessee.gov/education/ci/ss/doc/SS_3407.pdf>

* Describe and compare important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics.
* Explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures).
* Interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats).
* Critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum.

**INSTRUCTION:**

* **Topics and General Pacing**

Unit 1: Constitution

Unit 2: Political Beliefs and Behaviors

Unit 3: Political Parties, Interest Groups, Mass Media

Unit 4: Institutions of National Government

Unit 5: Public Policy

Unit 6: Civil Rights and Liberities

Students will explore American political concepts as compared to the different structures of government, the individual’s role in the political process, and the role government plays in our lives today. Students will develop reading, writing, and organizational skills within the content area in order to be successful in this class.

* **Materials Needed --** Students are expected to come to class on-time and prepared for class. They should bring paper, pencil and pen (blue or black ink), textbook, and notebook in which to keep all class materials.
* **Fees --** there are no additional fees associated with this course
* **Resources**
  + ***School-based*:** Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, Pearson, .**internet sources, school provided media**
  + ***Outside*: Film clips from the following movies: LBJ, Youtube videos.**
  + If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to me in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, the child's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

**ASSESSMENT:**

* **Expectations**

* I will make every effort to be fair and consistent in my teaching, grading and discipline**.**
* Attendance is crucial for student success; be here! Each day we will be actively learning new concepts and information. If you are absent, your learning experience will not be the same and it may impact your grade.
* There will be a lot of work!:You are expected to: take notes on a daily basis, study for tests, outside reading assignments and homework assignments, prepare for the AP exam
* If you are absent, you are to complete our absent work within the allowed time frame as described in the student handbook.
* Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes allowing someone to copy your assignments! Cheating will result in a zero for that assignment or test.
* **Grading Policy/Rubrics**

It is very important for students to be prepared for class each day, and to have devoted sufficient time to reading the text and completing the notes over each section as assigned. The schedule of assignments is listed on the attached calendar, which is updated monthly. These daily grades will make up a large part of the overall grade. Each assignment is due the day it is listed on the calendar. We will take major tests over each of the units in our textbook. These are also announced on the calendar. Students who are absent are still expected to keep up with notes and to take tests on assigned dates.

**Students will be evaluated based on the following scale:**

75% General Assignments--tests, quizzes, assignments, projects, other requirements

25% End of Course Final examination

Knox County grade scale: A 93-100

B 85-92

C 75-84

D 70-74

F 0-69

I Incomplete

* **Make-Up Work Policy/Late Work Policy:**

1. Missed work due to illness/death must be asked for within 3 days of returning to school. In most cases, the student will be given 3 days for each day missed to complete the work.
2. Late work is accepted, but 10% will be lost for each day that it is late. No more than 40% will be subtracted. However, late work will not be accepted after 20 days.
3. You may redo any daily assignment on which your grade was not satisfactory to you, for a grade up to a maximum of 90%. Redos may be turned in throughout the semester, until December 8th at 3:30 pm. In order to qualify for a redo or late turn-in, a student must first attend tutoring with the instructor before school or during hour lunch and complete extra practice. The late/redo assignment may vary from the original assignment, though it will cover the same objectives. A few assignments, including but not limited to the EOC and progress reports, are not eligible for the late/redo policy; any others will be announced in class when they are assigned.
4. Tests and quizzes are not eligible for redos!!!

* **Portal Post Policy – I will Post Grades to the Portal *at least* once per week.**

One way in which I am able to communicate with the student and parent is through Parent Portal. In order to give timely feedback, I will update grades at least once per week.

**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:**

**Students:**

* **Attendance Policy:**

Students who attend regularly make progress and students who do not attend regularly do not make progress.

* **Classroom Policy/Procedures**
* Follow the teacher’s first request
* Do not talk while the teacher is talking
* Be prepared for class. Bring all materials; paper, pencil/pen, textbook, notebook, etc. and have assignments completed before class starts!!!!
* Be on time!! In your seat when the bell rings or you are tardy!
* No inappropriate comments, language and gestures.
* Treat each other and the teacher with respect.
* No sleeping in class.
* No food or drink. (water in sealable container is ok)
* No cellphones, mp3 players or other electronic devices without teacher’s explicit permission.
* Behave like an adult to be treated like an adult; “save the drama for your mama.”

* **Honor Code**

Students must do their own work. Students are not expected to give or receive answers to or from other students or copy from other sources as if it were their own work (plagiarism). Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated!

**Teacher:**

* **Communication:**

My preferred method of communication is via School Fusion. I will send messages to students and parents only through this method. If School Fusion is not available to you, I can be reached through the school office at 865-933-3434.

* **School Fusion:**

The class webpage will be updated regularly with important class information and assignments.

* + **Intervention:**

Tutoring and extra help are available. In addition, I will gladly help any student seeking extra help in understanding the subject matter. Just ask.

Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to my AP Government class. In this class, I as well as the administration at Carter High School, have extremely high expectations of student success. It is my philosophy that success comes from teachers, students, and parents working together.

I would like to encourage you to take some time to read the course materials that your child has been given. In it you should find: a class syllabus, a copy of the rules and expectations, and a course description. Please review the standards and requirements with your child. These sheets should be kept in each student’s folder for reference. At the bottom of this sheet, you will notice a confirmation form for this letter. If you would please, read, sign, and have your child return this slip to me. Please have a phone number and/or email address to insure better communication. This slip is actually your child’s first assignment. Each student, who returns this sheet by **8/15/16**, will receive full credit for the assignment (**40 points**).

In any event that you may need to contact me, I can be reached at Carter High School at david.mcgee@knoxschools.org, 865-933-3434. Thank you for your cooperation and support in advance. I look forward to a successful year and working with your child throughout their high school experience. Sincerely,

David McGee

Social Studies Teacher

Carter High School

I have read and understand the expectations and requirements of my child in AP Government class. I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(phone number).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_