

Ms. Finley  
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Ext. 7654

**US Government**  
2024-2025

**Course Description**

You will engage in a study of the U.S. government and the ideals, practices, policies and structures that characterize our constitutional republic. Students will gain factual knowledge, but more importantly, they will develop the skills of careful reading, critical thinking, effective written and oral communication, and self-advocacy. Students will leave this class prepared to exercise their political rights and responsibilities in an informed, effective manner.

**Expectations**

This will be a great class! We will learn about why our country is the way it is. There will be multiple opportunities to tailor this class to each class's/individual's interests. That said, in order to keep this class fun and functional I ask you to think critically about these expectations:

- Be here everyday. If you are excused absent, you will need to make up the work on your own.
- Be on time. It demonstrates your respect (or lack thereof) for me and your classmates.
- Phones: See school policy.
- Be engaged. I PROMISE everything is more interesting if you actually pay attention. You'll know what's happening, you'll hear cool things, you'll learn better.
- Snacks. Bring them! We'll talk about this further in class.... But I need snacks, you need snacks, history needs snacks. If we're responsible, we're good.

**Grading Policy**

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	Below 60%

Assessments: 60%

Classwork/Daily Assignments: 30%

Citizenship: 10%

**Acknowledgement of General Election Year**

As we embark on this academic year, please note that 2024 is an important election year. In our government class, we will be actively engaging in discussions about current events in the political sphere. We will explore various news sources, learn how to research political matters, and analyze media bias to better understand the political landscape around us.

I encourage you to include your students in conversations about election matters at home. Engaging in these discussions will not only enhance their understanding of the electoral process but also prepare them to make informed decisions when they (possibly!) vote this November. Your involvement is crucial in fostering a sense of civic responsibility and encouraging active participation in our democracy.

### **Late Policy/Absence Expectations**

Late work will be accepted for  $\frac{3}{4}$  credit within the week of due date, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit beyond that until the end of each unit. After the end of each unit, **no** late work will be accepted.

**Unexcused Absence:** You are responsible for getting work that you miss. If it is late, it will be taken late at  $\frac{3}{4}$  and then  $\frac{1}{2}$  until end of unit.\*

**Excused Absence:** You are responsible for getting work that you miss. You will have TWO days from your return to retrieve and hand in work for on-time credit. Beyond two days, work will be taken late at  $\frac{3}{4}$  then  $\frac{1}{2}$  until end of unit. See student handbook for policy.

\*IF YOU KNOW YOU WILL BE GONE, talk to me in advance! I'm happy to talk you through what you're missing, answer questions, etc (within reason). The more time you give yourself, the more likely you are to be successful!\*

### **Plagiarism**

The Sentinel High School student handbook defines cheating as, "An effort to improve grades by copying notes, papers, looking at another's paper or test, plagiarism, etc." In this context plagiarism includes representing someone else's work as your own through methods including, but not limited to, copying a classmate's work, copying from an online source/author (including generative AI), quoting a source without citing a reference, and inserting a couple of your own words into another author's statement without citing the source. Plagiarism/cheating in this class will result in a **zero** on the assignment, with the possibility of parent contact, ISS/OSS, a replacement assignment, etc., as stated in the "consequences" section of the student handbook.

### **Cell Policy**

See student handbook: cell phones and PED will be put into caddy at beginning of class.