U.S. Government (P) Course Syllabus (Rev 2018) // Fall Semester – August 15th, 2018 to December 20th, 2018

FHS Syllabus

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A-Day Schedule (Legacy High School)		B-Day Schedule (Frontier High School)	
Block 1: Conference	7:25 – 8:55	Block 5 : Conference	1 7:00 – 8:25
Block 2: Economics	9:00 – 10:30	Block 6 : US Government	8:30 – 9:55
Advisory	10:30 – 10:50	Advisory	10:00 – 10:35
Block 3: Economics	10:50 – 1:20	Block 7 : AP US Government	10:40 – 12:55
Block 4: Economics	1:25 – 2:55	Block 8 : US Government	1:00 – 2:30
I offer tutoring after school daily while on campus beginning at 2:45 p.m. Please see me for an appointment.			

Course Description: This course provides the student with an understanding of the functions of the United States, Texas, and local governments. Topics include the foundations and development of the United States governmental system; the purposes, political and economic philosophies of the United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence; the structures and functions of governments at the federal, state and local levels; and responsibilities of American citizenship.

Goals and Objectives: Course goal is to teach U.S. Government in one-semester and assist students in understanding the following major topics (based on the Texas TEKS for U.S. Government):

The Foundations of Government	Liberty and Justice for All	State Government
The (3) Branches of Government	Participating in Government.	Political Systems

Book Information: The textbook we will be using is titled **United States Government: Principles in Practice.** Students shall have access to a digital version of the textbook and also access to a class set of textbooks. Students shall receive a username/password for access to the digital version of their textbook. Supplemental website link for additional assistance in learning US Government: Please go to the following web address: **http://bensguide.gpo.gov/learning-adventures-14more?id=39&age=ben14more**

Certifications: Since this is an academics course, there are no Certifications available for students to obtain.

Course Grading: It is important for you to monitor your grades and assignments. If your grade is not at least a 'C' average, I will need to make a phone call home. Grading policies for each 6 week grading period:

Major Grades: **50%** // Daily Work **50%** // **Overall Grades:**

90 – 100% = A	80 – 89.9% = B	70 – 79.9% = C	Below 70% = F

Students with a grade of "I" or with a grade of 69 or below are ineligible for extracurricular activities (TEC 33.081).

An 'Incomplete' (I) reflects incomplete student work and is not considered an academic grade. * See MISD Board Policy EIC (Local)

Weighted Credit: Per MISD Board Policy EIC (LOCAL): The District uses a weighted numerical grading system. In calculating GPA, ten points (per semester) shall be added to a student's average in Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP, Academic Decathlon, and courses considered to be District-approved college level dual credit courses. All other courses shall not receive weighted points for completion. No weighted credit point shall be added for grades lower than 70. Weighted grading shall be reflected in the student's GPA and not numerically per course on either the student's report card or transcript.

Assignments/Quizzes/Tests: Six weeks grades shall be obtained by averaging student work as detailed below. Daily assignments may count more than once, but no more than twice. MISD Curriculum Based Assessments (CBA) are calculated as part of the daily work category.

A minimum of 8 grades and two forms of major assessment will be given for each 6-week grading period. Student grades will be posted in the Skyward Parent Portal within 5 business days for daily grades and major grades. Special consideration is given to major projects, including lengthy writing assignments. Be prepared to complete these assignments when they are due on a timely basis.

Semester Grades: Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods and the course semester exam. Each six-week grading period and semester exam contributes to your overall grade. Here is a breakdown of each 6 week grading period: 1st 6 weeks = 26%; 2nd six weeks = 27%; 3rd six weeks = 27%; Semester exam = 20%.

Year Long Courses: Course credit is awarded with a grade of 70% of higher. If a student fails either semester of any MISD yearlong course and passes the opposite semester with a high enough grade for an overall average of 70% for the full course, full credit will be granted. In this situation, for averaging to occur, the courses must have been taken during the same school year and in consecutive semester. Example: Final score for 1st semester = 60%. Final score for 2nd Semester = 80%. (80%+60%)/2=70%. This example would award course credit since the average is 70% overall.

Semester Exam: Each semester, specific exam schedules are designated for MISD high schools and as related to dual credit courses. These schedules must be followed. Neither mid-term nor final exams are given early. If the student is absent on the day of an exam he/she will take the exam at a school designated time and date. A student is expected to contact the course teacher to schedule a makeup time for a **first semester exam** missed because of a student absence and the school-counseling department to schedule a make-up time for any **second semester exam** missed because of a student absence.

Student Work: The amount of time to complete assignments may vary with each student's study habits, academic skills and selected course load. This includes major projects such as research reports, book reports, major essays, and other assignments teachers designate as major projects.

UIL Eligibility (No Pass/No Play): Semester grades are computed by averaging the numerical grades recorded for each of the three six week reporting periods. Each six week grading period will stand along for eligibility purposes. A student who is declared academically ineligible after a six week grading period will be able to regain eligibility if all of the student's grade averages are 70% or higher at the subsequent (next) 3-week grade reporting period. ** See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL) for exempt courses.

Re-takes: Students who fail a major test/assessment (below 70%) will be allowed to retake or correct up to a 70% grade. This **does not include** semester examinations. Students are expected to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or correct a major test/assessment. Students are encouraged to participate in tutoring opportunities before retaking a test. All retakes or corrections **must** be completed prior to the end of each six-week grading period unless the student is afforded time, after the six-week grading period, as a result of the district's absence/make-up guidelines. See UIL ("No Pass/No Play") guidelines for additional information related to grades and UIL Eligibility.

Late Work: Teacher shall designate due date and time for assignment (Beginning of class period, End of class period, designated time of day). If student fails to meet the due date and time, then the student has till the next class period (next A day or B day) to turn in assignment to be considered for up to one class period late. Students shall be assessed a penalty of no more than 30 points per day for up to one class period late. A score of a zero may be given for work turned in after one day late.

Missed Exams or Assignments: Teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements. Students shall be responsible for obtaining and completing all makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. When absent, the student is afforded the number of days missed plus one additional day to turn in makeup work. [A/B Block Example:

A student misses Monday and Tuesday of the week and he/she returns on Wednesday of that same week. Student work from Mondays absence would be considered late after Friday and student work from Tuesdays absent would be considered late after the following Monday.] Students who do not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Students are encouraged to speak with their teacher if they know of an absence ahead of time, including absences for extracurricular activities, so that the teacher and student may plan any work that can be completed before or shortly after the absence.

Students will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Teachers may assign a late penalty to any long-term project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

See UIL ('No Pass/No Play') guidelines for additional information related to grades and UIL eligibility.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, submitting the work of another person, allowing another person to substitute for oneself in completing course work or taking a course test, submitting work previously used without informing the instructor and securing written approval, or tampering with computer files and/or academic work of other students. Violations of this policy will result in one or more of the following:

Daily work: Every offense –

- Academic and disciplinary consequences
- Assign grade of zero
- Write a referral
- Teacher contacts parents
- Consequences from administrator would be a minimum of AC placement

Exams or other major assessments: Every offense –

- Academic and disciplinary consequences
- Assign grade of zero
- Write a referral
- Teacher contacts parents
- Consequences from administrator would be a minimum of AC placement
- An alternative exam or major assessment can be completed for a maximum grade of a 70%
- Academic Associate is notified and will schedule a meeting with student, parent, and teacher.

Notebook: This course requires a 3-ring notebook (or equivalent). You will be asked to submit a notebook with all of your notes in it for 50 points at the end of each semester. There will be notebook checks worth 20 points each (unannounced). Late or missing notebooks are worth ½ the points being offered. It should be organized and complete. All notebooks collected at the end of each semester **must** be in a notebook or binder or they will not be accepted.

Note taking: All students are required to utilize good listening skills and to take notes. Information that is presented in class shall be utilized on class assessments/quizzes, and End of course exams for U.S. History. Review your notebook periodically to keep up with the information presented. Graphic organizers shall be provided for you to help you organize your notes. Use these notes to complete review worksheets/assignments.

Course Expectations:

Attendance: Make sure that you sign in on my roll sheet when you come into class and that you sit in your assigned seat. Don't forget: **10** absences from this course will result in an absence failure. Absences are reported to both counselors and parents/guardians.

Tardies: Learn to be on time. Your future professors and/or employers will expect it, and professionalism demands it. You are considered tardy when the official class time begins unless you have a valid classroom pass or other unforeseen circumstances as determined by school administration. In addition, any student who misses more than 20 minutes in any period of the day will be considered absent. Please follow the policy as outlined in your Student Handbook.

ID Policy – Students are to wear their ID's at all times per district policy. It may NOT be attached to purses, backpacks, pants, keys, or etc. ID's must be visible from the waist up. Students may clip their ID's to their clothing or display them on a lanyard. If you do not have your ID you will be required to get another ID. The wearing of ID cards is not optional. ** Note: Replacement ID's result in the assessment of a student fine.

Restroom Policy: Each student is expected to be in class from bell to bell. Students are to take advantage of the passing time between classes. **No restroom pass will be issued in the first 15 minutes or the last 15 minutes of class, and it is the responsibility of the student to return within a reasonable amount of time.** The teacher will consider emergency situations.

Sleeping: Stay awake during class. It is unacceptable to sleep during instruction. You will miss out on important information! Parent contact will result for all students who continuously exhibit this behavior.

Behavior Expectations: In regards to class participation, all students are expected to participate in class discussions and lessons. Students are expected to listen/respect each other, including another student's opinion/property. Refrain from engaging in side conversations during presentations/lectures. Failure to comply with MISD guidelines for student behavior will result in first, a warning (verbal or non-verbal), followed by a phone call/email home (if the behavior continues), and finally, referral(s) to a student's Associate Principal (determined by a student's last name).

Parent Contacts: All Parents/Guardians **must** be informed of their student's progress and/or behavior in class. If there is an issue that needs to be addressed, parents/guardians shall be notified when appropriate. Informing parents/guardians of their student's progress/behavior is **not an option**. It is mandatory and will be conducted.

Technology: Except for MISD Student tablets, students are not permitted to possess or use personal electronic devices such as MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, games, e-readers, or other electronic devices at school, unless prior permission has been obtained. Students who violate this policy shall have their electronic device turned into the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return items to students at the end of the day or to contact parents to pick up the items.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are not seen - out of site! This means in all FHS classes, no cell phones will be out. If a student forgets their iPad or laptop, they cannot use phone instead. If a student violates this expectation, the following disciplinary action shall be enforced:

1. 1st offense – Warning and parent contact.
2. 2nd offense – Teacher hold it for class period and parent contact
3. 3rd offense and beyond – Teacher take up and turn phone into AP. Student pays $15 fine. Assistant Principal shall contact parent.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, fabrication of information or citations, submitting the work of another person, allowing another person to substitute for oneself in completing course work or taking a course test, submitting work previously used without informing the instructor and securing written approval, or tampering with computer files and/or academic work of other students. Refer to student handbook for more clarification.

Handbook: The school's student handbook policies are in effect. NOTE: A copy of these policies and additional information is posted on MISD's school website.

Citizenship: All students are required to abide all class expectations. They are important and helps maintain a safe and welcome learning environment for everyone to enjoy.

Scope and Sequence

1st 6 Weeks Calendar

Unit 1: Foundations of the U.S. Constitution - Assignments/Activities include:

- What I know about US Government
- Completed Graphics Organizer
- 911 Letter to the Editor Activity
- Unit 1 Exam

Unit 2: Introduction to the U.S. Constitution

- Completed Graphics Organizer
- U.S. Constitution Analysis Activity
- Bill of Rights Brochure
- 4th Amendment Activity
- Unit 2 Exam

What I know: U.S. Govt.	August 16th, 2018	U.S. Constitution Analysis	September 13th, 2018
Completed Organizer	August 30th, 2018	Bill of Rights Brochure	September 17th, 2018
Unit 1 Exam	September 7th, 2018	4th Amendment Activity	September 19th, 2018
911 Letter to Editor	September 11th, 2018	Unit 2 Exam	September 21st, 2018
Exit Ticket Assessments (To be determined)		Pop Quiz (To be determined)	