



Naperville North  
**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Syllabus**  
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**District 203 Mission**

To educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors

**Social Studies Department Mission:**

*Our mission is to equip students with knowledge and skills so they can be active global citizens, curious thinkers and empathetic and compassionate human beings through our dynamic teaching and collaboration*

**Course Description**

How is democracy reflected in the three branches of the American system of government? In this course, students will study the primary concepts of the American political system, including its foundations, structures and political behavior. This course does not simply look at the institutions of the federal government but also examines the parties' issues, candidates and power-pressure groups and their roles in American politics at the national level. Emphasis is also placed on the role of the citizen in a democratic society. Successful completion of this course satisfies the American Government graduation requirement.

**Course Skills**

- Visual Literacy (including maps, charts, graphs, and political cartoons)
- Demonstrate how to express an understanding of those who hold different opinions.
- Textual Analysis
- Claim Writing and identification of appropriate support
- Research Skills including using the library databases

**Course Essential Questions**

- *What purpose should the United States government serve and from where does its power come?*
- *In American Federalism, where should the power of government reside?*
- *Are all voices heard in our American Republic?*
- *To what extent does Congress reflect the will of the people?*
- *How powerful should the President be within American Democracy?*
- *To what extent does the structure of Federal Court Systems resolve conflict and preserve liberty?*
- *Does the Constitution do enough to protect civil liberties and individual freedom?*

**Grading Disbursement and Grading Practices**

A=100-89.5%, B=89.4-79.5%, C= 79.4-69.5%, D=69.4-59.5%, F=59.4-0%

**Semester Grade = Coursework (85%) + Final (15%)**

**Coursework consists of...**

- **Practice Work – 10%**- Module Work, Notes, Practice Quizzes, Worksheets, etc.
- **Evidence Work- 90%** - Reading Quizzes, Vocabulary Quizzes, Labs, Papers, Unit Tests & Projects

## Grading Practices

At Naperville North we define “**Practice**” and “**Evidence**” work as follows:

- Practice work is a fundamental part of the learning and preparation process and will not be accepted after the due date unless specifically requested by the teacher.
- Evidence of learning (Summative or formative assessments) submitted after the due date cannot be penalized more than a total of 10% and must be submitted within 5 school days after the original due date.
- A zero on a summative assessment will only indicate that no attempt was made by the student. OR If a legitimate attempt is made on an assessment, a score of 50% will be the lowest possible grade.
  - Students will be eligible for the 50% floor through timely and consistent completion of practice work and formative assessments.

## Reassessment Policy

- The purpose of reassessment is to allow students to demonstrate mastery of course standards in which they remain deficient.
- Students who have demonstrated sufficient learning of the essential standards, but scored below 80% will be allowed reassessment opportunities on summative assessments if they so choose. To be eligible for reassessment, students must
  - Demonstrate readiness for the assessment through timely and consistent completion of practice work and formative assessments.
  - Complete designated learning experiences as assigned by the teacher
- Reassessments **MUST** be completed within 5 school days of the student receiving feedback unless otherwise determined by the instructor. The reassessment deadline should be communicated in an Infinite Campus comment.
- Project-based assessments that include multiple opportunities for feedback and improvement in the assessment process will represent multiple attempts and be considered a re-assessment.
- Higher reassessment grades will replace the original assessment score (but will not exceed 80-90% selected by the school).

## Academic Integrity Code Statement

District 203 students are challenged to address the academic process enthusiastically, diligently, and most importantly, honestly. It is the responsibility of our students, teachers, and administration to uphold the fundamental academic values of honesty, responsibility, fairness, respect and trust. The integrity of our district’s academic programs is built upon these principles.

Academic integrity violations include cheating; plagiarism, self-plagiarism or copy infringement; obtaining or providing an unfair advantage; falsification of documents; unauthorized access to records; and inappropriate collaboration, whether intentional or unintentional. **The classroom teacher and administration will collaborate and exercise professional judgment in determining academic integrity violations.**

## Communication

- You are encouraged to communicate with your teacher regarding questions.
- Teachers make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours during the work week.
- The best way to communicate with teachers is through email; however, if you haven't received a response within 48 hours, please resend the email or call their voicemail. Your email may have been filtered

## Films

This course may utilize the use of films to support the learning targets and essential standards of the course. Any permission slip will be sent home (via hardcopy or through Infinite Campus) for any film that is Rated R and an alternative assignment and/or learning experience will be provided for students who choose not to view the film.

## Field Trips

The field trips are designed to enrich the learning experience of the students to make more solid connections to the content of the course. **The field trips, while such great learning experiences, are a privilege.** Students must be passing all of their classes and in compliance with our attendance policy in order to qualify for the field trip experience

## Additional Resources for Support

- You can make an appointment with your teacher should they need additional instruction or support in learning material.
- You can attend your teachers WIN sessions to review material or work on mastery of content
- Peer Tutoring is provided during all Lunch periods in the Literacy Center

## Parents or Guardians

Naperville North believes in a collective partnership with parents/guardians which provides students the best opportunities for success.

We encourage students and parents to:

- Actively check Infinite Campus for their student's grade.
  - Infinite Campus is a tool to progress monitor student work until the final course grade is posted.
  - Monthly progress grades are posted and represent the current grade of a student in the course at that moment in time.
- Discuss missing assignments, reiterate due dates, help organize folders, materials, assignment notebooks and review upcoming projects and assessments.