

U.S. Government

Course Description: Students will study the Constitution, fundamentals of democracy, and U.S. government. The course will examine interactions of government institutions and the ways in which government institutions affect individuals and participation in the political process. Students will study public policy and how it relates to current events. This class emphasizes the rights, duties, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

Attendance: Students are required to be in school every day. Students are responsible for communicating with their teachers to make up for missed learning.

Essential Skills:

1. Source Evaluation
2. Argumentation
3. Comprehension
4. Communication and Collaboration

Course Expectations: Although not everything is graded, everything is important. In order to demonstrate growth and learning, students will need to:

1. Participate in class activities (take notes, work in a group, complete in class tasks, ask questions) without distractions (cell phones, games, etc.)
2. Use morning time and the teacher to seek help outside of class when needed.
3. Complete all assessments within teacher timelines.

Grading

Learning (Practice) includes instructional activities in and outside of class and are not used in grade determination.

Skyward Assessment (Grades) may include quizzes, labs, learning checks, tests, speeches, performances, and projects.

Calculations:

Course Grade	
Semester Grade	95%
Culminating Activity/Project/Exam	5%

Final Grade	
A	100% - 90%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Rapid City Alternative Academy Courses:

- Will determine grades based on student learning and growth.
- Will not include practice and behavior in grade determination.
- Will give all students regardless of absence an opportunity to demonstrate learning.
- Will not include extra credit.

Instructional Resources: Canvas, Skyward, Various Internet resources, Macgruder's American Government Text, Pearson

Classroom Expectations:

Rapid City Alternative Academy has three expectations for our students:

BE COURAGEOUS

BE RESPECTFUL

BE PRESENT

This includes:

1. *Come to class prepared* (laptops, charger, paper, pencil/pen, assignments)
2. *Be ready to work* when the bell rings
3. *Respect other people and their property*
 - * *Listen carefully when teacher or student is talking*—(please no side conversations)
 - * Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
 - * Keep room clean and neat. Pick up your trash.
4. *Respect other student's learning environment*
5. ***Take responsibility for your own education***

Attendance:

The importance of attending class every day cannot be stressed enough!! Because we are covering a semester's worth of material in 9 weeks, every class period/every day has approximately two days' worth of work included in the lesson. This social studies classroom is interactive and participatory centered. If you are absent, it is the expectation that the student will make up the work in their own time whether that is before school, after school, in Advisory, evenings, or during a free period.

Bathroom Expectations:

Unless you provide medical documentation stating otherwise or it is an emergency, it is the expectation that students will use the bathrooms before school, during passing periods, and before/after lunch. Passes to the bathroom will not be given during the first 15 minutes of the class period as that is when most of the daily instruction is being given.

Cell Phone/Technology Use:

This classroom will be following the school policy for technology misuse. The policy is posted on the southeast corner of the wall, by the door. It will be discussed in class. Exceptions will be made by the teacher depending on the educational circumstances of the day.