**American Government Course Syllabus**

**Mr. Stewart 2014-15 Room 615 – Sunnyside H.S**

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**Course Overview**

During the American government course we will begin by exploring the early ideas, concepts and principals that were the foundation of our American republic. We will conclude the course by defining the civic responsibilities of participating in state and local government.  During the process of learning about the key concepts and ideas of our great American republic we will be learning how to become successful productive citizens of our American republic through the use of the following skills: identifying political roots and philosophies, recognizing bias, understanding point of view, determining cause and effect, draw conclusions, reading tables and analyzing statistics, drawing inferences, using time tables and analyzing statistics, drawing inferences, using time line and creating multimedia presentations. Finally, our topics in American government will include, in chronological order:

**Outline-**

**Unit 1: Foundations of American Government Weeks 1-2-3-4**

Principles of Government

Origins of American Government

The Constitution

Federalism

**Unit 2: Political Behavior: Government by the People Weeks 5-6**

Political Parties

Voters and Voter Behavior

Electoral Process

Mass Media and Public Opinion

Interest Groups

**Unit 3: Legislative Branch Weeks 7-8-9**

Congress / Powers of Congress

Congress in Action

**Unit 4: Executive Branch Weeks 10-11-12**

President / President in Action

The Bureaucracy

Financing Government

Foreign Policy / National Defense

**Unit 5: Judicial Branch and Civil Liberties Weeks 13-14-15-16**

Federal Court System

Civil Liberties: 1st Amendment Rights

Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights

Civil Liberties: Equal Justice Under Law

**Unit 6: Political System / Local Government Weeks 17-18**

Comparative Political Systems

Governing the State of Arizona

Arizona Local Government and Finance

**Grading Scale reflects the percentage of points in each category**

90-100 = A                              Participation 5%

80-90 = B                                Projects 10%

70-80 = C                                Assignments (home and class work) 55%

60-70 = D                                Assessments 30%

**Classroom Discipline Plan**

Instances considered discipline issues are at the discretion of the teacher and the severity of the consequences will be determined by the severity of the offense. The classroom discipline plan is a strict 3-strike policy.

**1stoffense** = warning

**2ndoffense** = A call home

**3rdoffense** = administrative referral, parent contact, possible parent conference

**Class Room Expectations**

1.     Attentive when Mr. Stewart is addressing the class.

2.     Be respectful of all persons and their belongings in this classroom.

3.     Be in your seat prepared for class when the bell rings.

4.     Quiet during tests! If you have questions raise your hand. Anyone talking during a test or caught cheating will be given a 0.

**Note:** There will be no late work or make-up tests accepted the last two weeks of class

**Note:** Late Work Includes: Homework, in-class assignments, projects, make-up quizzes or make-up/re-take exams.