



Contact Information

Teacher

Randon Knoll
rknoll@azleisd.net or email thru Canvas
Room P-8

Teacher Communication Policy

Outside of class, class messages will be posted in Canvas Announcements or delivered to student Canvas Inboxes. Students are expected to check Canvas regularly for announcements and messages. Students should use their Canvas Inbox to contact the teacher outside of the classroom or tutorial hours.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be appointment only due to athletic requirements during the fall semester. However, the majority of classwork will be completed during the period so there will be time for assistance.



Class Description

This course is the culmination of the civic and governmental content and concepts studied from Kindergarten through required secondary courses. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus of the course is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created.



Class Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems.

2. Identify the role of government in the U.S. free enterprise system and examine the strategic importance of places to the United States.
3. Analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a constitutional republic, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.
4. Identify examples of government policies that encourage scientific research and use critical-thinking skills to create a product on contemporary government issue.



Textbook and Reading Materials

PDF files of the textbook listed below will be provided to you through Canvas.

Fraga, Luis Ricardo. Holt United States Government : Principles in Practice. Austin, Tex. :Holt McDougal, 2012.



Course Schedule Details

Course Schedule

Date	Details
Week 1	Essentials of the United States Government & Interactive United States Government Overview
Week 2	Foundations of Government
Week 3	Origins of American Government
Week 4	The Constitution
Week 5	Federalism
Week 6	Congress: The Legislative Branch
Week 7	The Presidency
Week 8	The Executive Branch at Work
Week 9	The Federal Courts and the Judicial Branch
Week 10	The Political Process
Week 11	Civil Liberties
Week 12	Civil Rights
Week 13	Understanding Elections
Week 14	Supreme Court Cases
Week 15	Making Foreign Policy
Week 16	Comparative Political and Economic Systems
Week 17	State and Local Government
Week 18	Culminating Project



Canvas Information

Canvas is the where course content and communication will reside for this course.

The URL to access Canvas is: <https://azle.instructure.com/>

For Canvas, passwords, or any other technical support contact Technology located in Room F-19.



Class Policies



Grading Procedures

All Grading Procedures are aligned within Azle ISD Grading Guidelines located in the 2021-2022 Faculty and Student Handbook.

Determinations of passing or failing is based on how well students have demonstrated their understanding of the concepts and skills taught throughout the term. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery through multiple measures of performance, such as assessments, classwork (notes), projects/assignments, and

Late Work Policy

Meeting deadlines is a skill that will help students in high school and beyond. I encourage students to turn in work by the assigned due date to receive full credit. When that is not possible, late work will be accepted with the following conditions:

Work turned in 1 school day or less after the due date will reflect a 10 point or 10% loss of credit.

Work turned in 2 school days (2 class periods) late will reflect a 20 point or 20% loss of credit.

Work turned in 3 school days (3 class periods) late will reflect a 30 point or 30% loss of credit.

Work turned in 4 school days (4 class periods) late will reflect a 50 point or 50% loss of credit.

Major Assessments will not be accepted late.

Grade Monitoring

To assist parents/guardians in monitoring a student's grades between grading periods, not only will progress reports be issued. The District also has Parent Portal which allows parents/guardians to view their student's grades, attendance, and other demographic information.

Canvas should not be utilized as a grade monitoring tool. Parent Portal is the only source for a student's grade. However, it is highly recommended that parents/guardians become observers in Canvas to track student participation within the class.

Grades will be entered weekly by the end of the day Thursdays. The only exception is at the beginning of a grading period in which grades will be entered no later than the second Tuesday.

Assignment Weighting

Azle ISD Grading Guidelines

Daily Grades	60%
Major Grades/Assessments	30%
Semester Exam	10%

Grading Scheme

Class Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter Grade
90 - 100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
<70	F

Extra Credit

Extra credit is extremely limited - do the assigned work and do not rely on extra credit to carry you through the class. However, each student will have the opportunity to earn up to 100 points in extra credit through a late homework system entitled "Next Class Pass".

Next Class Pass

At the beginning of each grading period, each student will receive 5 Next Class Passes worth 20 points each (5 x 20 = 100). Each pass allows a student one extra class period/day to turn in assigned homework. Only 1 pass allowed per assignment. If a student fails to submit their homework after the additional day, point deductions will begin at 20% on day 2.

At the end of the grading period, extra credit points will be awarded to those that have unused passes remaining.



Expectations for Student Conduct

You are responsible for knowing any and all rules in the Azle High School Student Handbook and they will be strictly enforced within the classroom.

If you fail to abide by the rules and expectations with the classroom, consequences include:

1st Offense - Verbal Warning

2nd Offense - Parent Notification

3rd Offense - 2 Wednesday 1 hour detentions or a Wednesday 2 hour detention

4th Offense - Friday 3 hour detention

5th Offense - Recommendation for ISS

Cell Phones

Per the Azle High School Student Handbook, if a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The student may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the Student Services office at the end of the school day the first two times it is confiscated. The third time and every time after the third incident, the parent will be required to pick up the phone in the Student Services office. Administration can require parents to pick up the phone on the first or second offense.

Zero Tolerance. This policy will be strictly enforced with zero warning.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

These include, but are not limited to the following:

	Do	Don't
Attendance, punctuality, & presence	Attend class regularly	Don't distract class if you arrive late
	Arrive on time & remain in class for the entire period	Don't repeatedly ask to leave
Food & drinks	Water/coffee are acceptable	Don't consume food in the classroom
	Dispose of trash in the trash bin (this is a privilege subject to change at any given time)	
Participation, discussion, & engagement	Participate in lecture activities	Don't engage in personal conversations
	Raise your hand at an appropriate time if you have questions or comments	Don't work on assignments for other classes
	Stay on topic & be brief	Don't use foul language

Classroom Rules and Expectations (cont)

	Do	Don't
Personal & social responsibility	Maintain a collegial, positive environment	Don't make assumptions
	Respect classmates, faculty, staff, & administrators	Don't be disrespectful
	Act professionally & ethically	
Netiquette	Be respectful & use proper form of address	Don't type in ALL CAPS
	Stay on topic, be brief, & use proper grammar	
	Think before typing; review before sending	Don't use inappropriate/inflammatory language

Student Responsibilities

Student responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

Accessing class materials and accessing, completing and submitting all graded assignments within the specified time limits

Resolving technical issues BEFORE assignments are due

Staying informed of current grades via ParentLink

Contacting the teacher in a timely manner with any questions or concerns regarding class material, assignments, and grades

Attending class regularly, punctually, and remaining in class for the entire class period

Maintaining academic integrity

Adhering to all class and Azle ISD policies

Classroom Procedures

To & From Class

Be prepared and in your seat when the bell rings. Tardies always count. You may not leave the classroom during instruction. 10/10 Rule: No one can leave the first or last 10 minutes of class.

Beginning & End of Class

Read the Canvas announcement for directions. Complete the warm-up activity immediately upon arrival. When you finish work early, stay in your seat, and begin the exit ticket.

Turning in completed assignments

All assignments are due at the end of your class period unless otherwise stated. Due dates will always be posted on Canvas assignments. All electronic work is turned in via Canvas. Journals will be collected on Fridays told otherwise.

Absent + Make-up Work

Upon your return, check Canvas and the classroom calendar. Schedule a time for tutorials if you have any questions. You have the number of days you were out to complete the work you missed.

Communication

Communicate your needs. Sometimes we have bad days and need a moment, let me know. Sometimes, you need stuff, let me know. You might need rephrasing or you missed directions, let me know. Communication helps us understand each other better and avoid miscommunications.