

SYLLABUS: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, GRADES 9-12/FALL 2010

TEACHER: SOPHIA SCHWARZ

CONTACT INFORMATION: paul@syllabration.com, or 299-1603. I ask that you try contacting me by e-mail first. If you don't receive a timely reply, you may call. Please do not call between 9 am and 12 noon Monday through Friday. I do not answer the phone in the morning while homeschooling, but you are welcome to leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP. The best time to reach me is between 3 and 5 pm and 7 and 9 pm.

This class will cover the foundations of American Government. We will cover three specific areas: the evolution of governments throughout history and how they affected the founding of our nation, the principal documents that guide our republic, as well as the branches of the federal government, and state/local governments and a citizen's responsibility regarding civic involvement. We will be using the curriculum entitled AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE by Abeka. We will also be reading extensively throughout the founding documents of our nation, including The Mayflower Compact, The Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. Supplemental materials will be used on occasion and supplied by the teacher. NOTE: this class will count toward one credit of social studies for the Mason-Dixon diploma, meeting qualification #1 (completion of at least two-thirds of a textbook) and qualification #4 (completion of a substantial research paper). I'm not sure if it will fulfill other diploma qualifications, but I do hope so, and parents can most likely assist their students to supplement any necessary requirements to make it a reality.

This class will require extensive homework each week, consisting of reading assignments, memorization of Bible verses and portions of founding documents, researching and formulating a research paper, and preparing for quizzes and tests throughout the semester. I am working on coordinating a field trip to Washington D.C. in late September that I hope the whole class will be able to attend. I will also attempt to have a local state representative come and speak to the class about our state government.

I will be assigning grades for all work and class participation. The work will count as follows:

Term paper: 25% of final grade: (10%: ROUGH DRAFT, 15%: FINAL COPY)

Class participation: 25% of final grade

Test #1: 10% of final grade

Test #2: 10% of final grade

Test #3: 10% of final grade

Quizzes: 10% of final grade

Memory work: 10% of final grade

TESTS will be held on OCTOBER 4, NOVEMBER 1 AND NOVEMBER 29.

QUIZZES will be UNANNOUNCED and relate to the reading and/or memory work

assigned for the week. A rough draft of the term paper is **DUE ON OCTOBER 25**, with final drafts **DUE ON DECEMBER 6**. All work is due on days noted. Any work not handed in on time will be assigned a "0".

Please be sure to bring **ALL** of your books to class **EVERY WEEK!** Quizzes will be unannounced, and you will need those books at any given moment! You will also need to have a pen, pencil and a small three-ring binder with pockets and paper for each class session.

CLASS SCHEDULE: (NOTE: **PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ITEMS THAT ARE CAPITALIZED OR ITALICIZED. I'VE DONE SO TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR IMPORTANCE.**) You don't necessarily have to work on your term paper every week. Just be careful to manage your time and keep on top of the deadlines, please! I don't want to have to give you a "0", really I don't! **STUDENTS AND PARENTS, PLEASE:** if you need assistance with **ANYTHING**, contact me and I will do my very best to help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

WEEK #1--SEPTEMBER 13: Review class syllabus and discuss class policies and expectations. Discuss term paper subjects and prepare your **TOP THREE CHOICES** for selection next week. Read Chapters 1 and 2 for next week's class.

WEEK #2--SEPTEMBER 20: Pick numbers to decide order for term paper selection. Choose term paper topics. Discuss Chapters 1 and 2. Read Chapter 3 for next week's class. Begin research on term paper. **ROUGH DRAFT DUE: 35 DAYS.**

WEEK #3--SEPTEMBER 27: Discuss Chapter 3. Read Chapter 4 for next week's class. Prepare for test on Chapters 1-3 next week. **ROUGH DRAFT DUE: 27 DAYS.**

WEEK #4--OCTOBER 4: Test on Chapters 1-3. Discuss Chapter 4. Read Chapter 5 for next week's class. **ROUGH DRAFT DUE: 21 DAYS.**

WEEK #5--OCTOBER 11: Discuss Chapter 5. Read Chapters 6 and 7 for next week's class. **ROUGH DRAFT DUE: 14 DAYS.**

WEEK #6--OCTOBER 18: Discuss Chapters 6 and 7. Read Chapter 8 for next week's class. **ROUGH DRAFT DUE: 7 DAYS--THAT'S NEXT WEEK, EVERYONE!!!**

WEEK #7--OCTOBER 25: **ROUGH DRAFT ON TERM PAPER DUE TODAY!** Discuss Chapter 8. Read Chapter 9 for next week's class. Review Chapters 4-8 for test next week.

WEEK #8--NOVEMBER 1: Test on Chapters 4-8. Rough drafts returned for finalization. Review Chapter 9, if time permits. Read Chapter 10 for next week's

class. FINAL PAPER DUE: 35 DAYS.

WEEK #9--NOVEMBER 8: Possible guest speaker: a state representative. Discuss Chapter 10, and possibly Chapter 9. Read Chapter 11 for next week's class. FINAL PAPER DUE: 28 DAYS.

WEEK #10--NOVEMBER 15: Possible guest speaker: a state representative. Discuss Chapter 11. Read Chapter 12 for next week's class. FINAL PAPER DUE: 21 DAYS.

WEEK #11--NOVEMBER 22: Discuss Chapter 12. Work on term papers. Prepare for test on Chapters 9-12 next week. FINAL PAPER DUE: 14 DAYS.

WEEK # 12--NOVEMBER 29: Test on Chapters 9-12. Work on term papers. FINAL PAPER DUE: 7 DAYS--NEXT WEEK!!!

WEEK #13--DECEMBER 6: FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY. Review.

WEEK #14--DECEMBER 13: Wrap-up any unfinished business and PARTY!