**GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

*Course Syllabus*

**Instructor:** Charlie Sea  **Room#:**  302 **Year:**  2015 - 2016

**Course Name and Course #:** American Government and Civics - Course # 450570000

**Textbook Used:** *Magruder’s American Government* William A McClenaghan, Prentice Hall, 2005.

**Supplementary Texts or Special Materials:** Reading study guides; U.S. current events from news sources or reading material as assigned.

**Course Description:** World History is a required course that teaches the origins, development, structure, and functions of American national government. Topics include the constitutional framework; federalism; the three branches of government, including the bureaucracy; civil rights and liberties; political participation and behavior; and policy formation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system.

**Course Outline and Content:**

* **Unit 1: Foundations of American Government**
* **Unit 2: U.S. Historical Background**
* **Unit 3: Political Views**
* **Unit 4: The Legislative Branch**
* **Unit 5: The Executive Branch**
* **Unit 6: The Judicial Branch**
* **Unit 7: Bill of Rights**

**Within each instructional unit, students will be given many opportunities to demonstrate the following social studies skills:**

* Map and globe skills
* Information processing skills
* Critical thinking skills
* Reading comprehension skills
* Effective communication skills

**Class instruction will consist of:**

* Lectures
* PowerPoint Presentations
* Group activities
* Role playing
* Analyzing political cartoons
* Vocabulary
* Journaling
* Projects
* Assessments (Formative/Daily and Summative/Major Grades)

**Classroom Rules and Discipline Procedures:**

**Required Supplies**

* Please bring a Pen/Pencil (these will not always be provided)
* Notebook or folder for American Government and Civics

**Classroom Expectations**

I expect each student to behave in a respectful manner and to be accountable for their performance and behavior in class. Each student should:

* Come to class with a desire to work hard.
* Take the responsibility to organize yourself (come to class prepared on a daily basis, keep up with all assignments, and take advantage of all learning opportunities).
* Work together with the teacher and other students.
* Be prompt, be prepared, be productive, and be polite! There is a time to talk and discuss topics appropriately.
* Cell phones/electric devices are **NOT** permitted during class periods (unless teacher permission is given).
* Hats are **NOT** to be worn in the school building (applies to boys and girls).
* Please follow all other rules outlined in your *GHS Student Handbook*, which follow the GHS School Code of Conduct. **\*A complete set of school rules is located in each student’s planner. The rules listed in the planner are classroom rules as well. (Student- Parent Handbook 2015-2016 beginning with page 19.)**

***Make-up Policy:***  “Students will be allowed to make up all worked missed during an excused or unexcused absence in accordance with school rules.” (Student-Parent Handbook 2015-2016, page 22) – Please inform me ahead of time if you know you will miss a scheduled test or quiz.

***Grading System:*** Daily Work/Formative 35%; Tests & Projects/Summative 45%; Final/SLO 20%