

# Dual Credit Government Syllabus

2011-2012

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquence; it is force! It is a dangerous servant and a terrible master." -Mark Twain

## Instructor Information:

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**DC Government Course Description:** Dual Credit Government allows you to complete your high school Government requirement for graduation while earning college credit at St. Philips College. This college-level course is taught in accordance with the academic rules of St. Philips College, as well as those of the District & the school. I am adjunct instructor of Government at St. Philips College and will be the only teacher you have during the course. We will cover the first two government course normally taken in college: Govt 2305. Upon successful completion of the class, you will receive 3 hours of college credit. Note that credits are not awarded until the student has actually graduated from high school.

**High School Course Objectives:** This course meets the requirements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for high school Government. You can see specific course objectives at: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter113/ch113c.html#113.44>

**Textbook:** We will be using a textbook entitled Magruder's American Government. Be sure you get the correct book. Please take care of these books. Each volume costs almost \$100. This is not a college-level textbook, so we will supplement the information in these books with other college-level material.

**High School vs College:** This is a college class and is taught using college rules and expectations. The final grade for this course becomes part of the student's official college transcript. There are two grades for this course, one for high school and one for college. These two grades are similar, but not necessarily the same. The chief cause of the difference in grades is the fact that the fall college semester ends about three weeks before the end of the high school semester. Grades will continue to be added to the gradebook after the college grade for each semester has already been finalized. Please pay particular attention to the grading practices for this course.

**Course Withdrawal:** If you should choose to withdraw from this course for any reason, there are special procedures that must be followed. Since you are enrolled at St Philips College while in this course, you must contact our college counselor, Carroll Benham, to be sure that you are also withdrawn at St Philips. **Failure to do this could result in a zero on your college transcript.** You should also be aware that all colleges have "final drop dates" beyond which you cannot drop a class without a grade penalty. If you drop the class after this date, you will automatically receive a zero on your college transcript. See the St Philips Website to determine this date. (<http://www.alamo.edu/spc/>)

**Alternative School and/or Suspension:** In the unlikely event that a student is sent to alternative school or is suspended while enrolled in this course, students will most likely be withdrawn from the course. It is impossible to provide college services to students who are not in class. See "Course Withdrawal" above.

## Grade Categories & Weighting

-Course Grade: 20% of your high school course grade comes from the final test.

-Semester Grade: the semester grade will be determined in accordance with current district grading policies. These policies are currently under revision, so a supplement will be issued after the District policies are finalized.

## Absence, Tardy, and Grading Procedure:

**-Tardies:** Habitual tardiness is discourteous & disrespectful to the class & teacher. All unexcused tardies will be handled in accordance with the policies listed in the Student Handbook.

**-Absences:** It is very difficult to keep up with the work in this class if you are absent. Missed work from

an absence is considered on-time if it is turned in within three school days of the return to class. Work turned in after that time is considered late. In all cases, it is the responsibility of the student to determine what was missed as the result of an absence. "I didn't know about the assignment." is not an excuse for failing to turn in missed work. You do not get extra days on a long-term project in the case of periodic absence.

**-Late Work:** Work not turned in when collected in class, or not turned in within the allowed makeup time following an absence, is considered late. **Computer or printer failure is never an excuse for late work.** District policies for late work are currently under revision. A supplement will be issued when District policies are finalized.

**Computers & Technology:** This class relies on computers and other technology in our day-to-day lessons & for most assignments. A computer with Internet access is required for most assignments. If these are not available at home, please plan to use the available computers at school. I believe that one picture is worth a thousand words, so I use a wide variety of video clips & educational videos in class. We also watch three full-length theatrical movies that are part of the learning objectives for the course. There is a test or assignment associated with each of these movie activities.

**Extra Help:** In general, I am not available after school. Let me know if you need extra help so that we can set up an appointment.

### **The Basic 8 Classroom Rules:**

- You are here to learn. Behavior that distracts from teaching and learning will not be tolerated.
- Treat everyone in my room with courtesy & respect at all times.
- Be in your assigned seat throughout the class unless given permission to be up.
- I expect students to clean up after themselves. Nobody leaves until the room is clean.
- Take care of school property. Willful damage is considered vandalism.
- As in life, minimum effort will usually result in a minimum reward (or grade). Always do your best.
- Class ends when the teacher dismisses the class. Stay in your seats until class is dismissed.
- Follow all District, Clemens, & classroom rules. Be willing to accept the consequences if you don't.

**Dishonesty & Cheating:** Dishonesty & cheating of any kind is not tolerated. Since this is a college class, you should know that the college penalties for cheating may be severe. College penalties may include expulsion from the college and annotation of your college transcript. Students who are disenrolled for academic dishonesty are generally barred from admission to other colleges and universities, as well as becoming ineligible for most grants & loans. Forms of cheating & academic dishonesty include:

- Copying answers during a test
- Cutting and pasting directly from the Internet or any other source
- Copying answers directly from a classmate's assignment
- Working together on take-home quizzes & tests unless specifically assigned as a group activity
- Receiving unauthorized help on any assignment

There is no excuse for cheating or plagiarism. Both Samuel Clemens & St Philips College have written guidelines concerning cheating. Penalties will be applied in all cases of cheating or plagiarism.

**Academic Schedule:** Most college syllabi contain an academic calendar that shows what & when information will be covered in class, as well as reading and other assignments. Since high school often contains events that disrupt class-time, such as pep rallies, fire drills, class meetings, and so on, please refer to my online academic calendar for current information.

### **George Blair**

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*Teacher of Dual Credit US History & Government*

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